

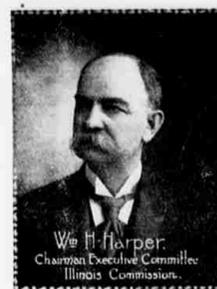
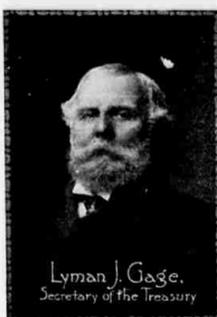
THE OMAHA DAILY BEE



ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

OMAHA, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1898 FIRST SECTION.

SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.



PALATIAL HOME FOR SUCKERS

Beautiful Building Erected by the Illinois State Commission.

INTENDED FOR COMFORT OF VISITORS

One of the Most Attractive and Popular Places on the Grounds Looked After by Colonel Hambleton.

The Illinois building is one of the most conspicuous in the group of state buildings on the bluff tract. Standing at the edge of the bluff overlooking the valley of the Missouri, just at the south side of the Grand Plaza, the broad verandas and symmetrical appearance of the building invite closer inspection and such invitation is seldom refused. Besides being one of the most attractive the Illinois building is one of the most popular places on the grounds and there is scarcely a moment from the time the gates open until they close when the beautiful rooms are not thronged by visitors who are lost in admiration at sight of the many provisions for the comfort and entertainment of all comers.

The building is a magnificent specimen of the colonial style of architecture, combined with sufficient of the Greek and Byzantine to produce a combination which is charming in its simplicity and elegant to a degree. The central portion of the structure, on both the east and west sides, is marked by tall columns supporting a pediment in which appears a shield bearing the name of the state. These columns enclose a broad piazza and from either side a veranda extends entirely around the building. A flat dome of the Byzantine type caps the central portion of the building and adds an architectural finish to a beautiful and attractive structure.

The building is 62x136 feet on the ground and cost about \$18,000, including the furnishing. The architects were Wilson & Marshall of Chicago and the contractors were William Goldie & Sons company, also of Chicago.

Just the Place for Tired People.

The wide and shady veranda extending all around the building is provided with capacious easy chairs and these are always on duty. Tired visitors by the hundreds patronize these resting places and laud the thoughtfulness of the people who anticipated the needs of humanity when visiting an exposition.

The cool and inviting appearance of the exterior of the building is carried to a full realization in the interior. The latter is treated in the charming colonial style which carries with it an air of comfort and luxury which no modern style can equal. Elegant simplicity characterizes the structure on every side. There is no ostentatious display of wealth, but the refinement of luxury is on every hand.

Entrance is gained to the building via the broad piazzas at the east and west leading to a central rotunda, which gives to the visitor the first glimpse of the interior. The floor of the rotunda is laid in mosaic of a neutral tone, the decorative designs being worked out in subdued colors. In the center of the floor appears the Illinois coat-of-arms in colors. A circular row of Corinthian columns, in groups of two, support a circular balcony at the second floor, and overhead which is vaulted dome, the interior of which is painted with cloud effects. The rotunda is treated throughout in gold tones, and against these the soft green of palms and other foliage plants stands out in strong contrast. In one corner of the rotunda a check stand is maintained, where visitors may leave parcels without charge, and a register is kept for the convenience of persons visiting the building. A stairway at either side of the east entrance to the rotunda leads to the upper rooms.

Opening from the rotunda to the north and south are parlors for the accommodation of those who wish to take advantage of the opportunity for rest and quiet. These

extending to the full height of the two stories.

Parlor for the Women.

The parlor on the south is for the use of the women, and is entered through wide arches hung with heavy plush curtains. The entire room is rich olive green in tone. The walls are tinted with this soft color and the furnishings are of the same tone, except the soft velvet carpet, which is a deep, rich red. A wide band extends entirely around the room at the second floor, and in this are ornaments in high relief, consisting of a wreath of laurel enclosing a state shield, the whole being treated in appropriate colors of subdued tones. In each of the four corners of the room is a wide divan upholstered in green plush and plentifully supplied with inviting pillows. Capacious wicker chairs on every side hold out their arms in welcome to the tired pilgrim, and seldom is the invitation refused. A library table supplied with writing

materials and files of the Chicago papers offers accommodations which are the more welcome because of their rarity, and a piano is provided for the use of those who are musically inclined. White shades and lace curtains at the windows admit a soft light which adds to the pleasant charm of this most delightful and cozy retreat. A retiring room for women, with a woman attendant, adds to the completeness of the accommodations for the feminine portion of the community.

Opening from this room is the office of Colonel C. E. Hambleton, secretary of the Illinois commission, and custodian of the building. The office is furnished in simple style, with the necessary adjuncts for carrying on the business of the commission.

The parlor at the north of the rotunda is devoted to the men and is finished throughout in red tones. The walls and lofty ceiling are tinted in terra cotta, relieved with a band at the second floor carry-

ing the tasty design of a laurel wreath and shield mentioned in connection with the green room. A wide, old-fashioned fireplace at the west side of the room is in keeping with the general colonial style which prevails throughout the building. Wide divans upholstered in rich plush make cozy and inviting nooks of every corner and comfortable wicker chairs invite the weary traveler to rest. As in the green room, writing materials and files of the Chicago papers offer opportunities for pleasant relaxation from the toil of sightseeing. A green carpet, lace curtains and potted plants complete the fittings of this room.

Opening from the red room to the east, through wide arches hung with heavy plush curtains, is a large room known as "the president's room." This is intended for the meetings of the Illinois commission and for the transaction of business. It is treated in green and furnished with comfortable chairs with spreading arms and a long table

giving a business-like appearance in strong contrast with the luxurious ease of the parlors.

A commodious lavatory in this wing of the building is set apart for the accommodation of the men.

For a Banquet or Ball.
The upper portion of the north wing of the building is arranged for a banquet or dancing room. The walls are tinted with a rich, red tone and the floor is stained with the same warm color. Many pleasant entertainments are planned in which this room will play an important part. An arch cut in the west wall of the room forms a balcony which overlooks the red room below.

The remainder of the upper floor is occupied by sleeping apartments for the accommodation of members of the Illinois commission who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to spend the night on the grounds. The same elegant simplicity which

characterizes the entire building is found in the furnishing of these rooms.

The Illinois building is in charge of Colonel C. E. Hambleton, secretary of the Illinois commission, and his most estimable wife. The inviting appearance of the beautiful building finds a hearty echo in the cordiality and geniality which characterize the treatment accorded every visitor to the building and the pleasing personality of the host and hostess has made the Illinois building the most popular resort on the grounds.

W. W. Williams of Hopeston, Ill., presides over the desk in the rotunda and has charge of the visitors' register, furnishing such information and directions as may be desired by callers. C. S. Washington of Chicago and Mrs. Mabel Washington, his wife, constitute the force of attaches of the building and contribute very materially to the comfort of the numerous guests.

On the south of the main building and

connected with it by a covered colonnade is an art gallery in which are displayed four large paintings of the immortal World's fair. Visitors to the building enter a lobby, where they are confronted with several small paintings in oil, showing bits of scenery in the great World's Columbian exposition. Pedestals here and there support small figures in staff, some of them bronzed, which recall the marvelous statuary of that great exposition. Passing inside the visitor enters a large room, which is lighted by incandescent lamps which throw their beams on four large paintings representing the departed glories of the exposition which set the pace for the world. Each picture is about 10x20 feet in size and occupies one side of the room. The principal points of interest at the World's fair are shown in exact likeness, affording an excellent and convenient means of comparing the Trans-mississippi Exposition with its most illustrious predecessor.

These four paintings, as well as the smaller ones hung in the lobby, are the work of John R. Key, an artist of Chicago, and they will make his memory immortal in connection with the preservation of the glories of the greatest exposition this country has ever seen.

ILLINOIS STATE COMMISSIONERS.



CHARLES C. WILLIAMS, Hoopston.



COL. C. E. HAMBLETON, Secretary.



C. H. KEELER, Dixon.



W. B. BRINTON, Peru.



JAMES P. WHEDON, Chicago.



RANDOLPH SMITH, Flora.



EDWARD C. CRAIG, Mattoon.



L. O. GODDARD, Chicago.



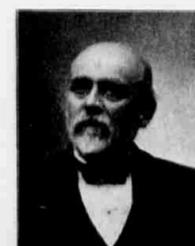
ILLINOIS EXPOSITION STATE BUILDING.



E. S. CONWAY, Chicago.



MARTIN KINGMAN, Peoria.



GEORGE W. WALL.



W. H. STEAD.



CHARLES A. MALLORY, Chicago.



JAMES A. BLACK, Carthage.



FERDINAND W. PECK, Chicago.

Illinois in Paragraphs.

Lincoln, Grant and Logan lead the list. Illinois' motto is: "State Sovereignty, National Union."

Illinois is one of the few states of the union that is out of debt.

Dick Yates, Dick Oglesby and John M. Tanner are the war governors.

The Illinois Indians, from whom the state takes its name, was a confederation of the Cahokia, Peoria, Kaskaskia, Tamaroa and Mingoia, Peoria, a few relics of which still survive in the Indian Territory.

Illinois abounds in Indian legends. Many of the most entertaining stories of modern fiction have been woven about the records of the experience of the early white visitors to the region once so teeming with aboriginal red men.

Illinois' manufactures cover a wide range. Everything from pig iron to fine furniture is turned out from the mills and factories of the state. It takes the lead in the manufacture of farming implements.

Illinois' record in connection with the war of the rebellion is one of the state's proudest heritages. Having furnished such men as President Lincoln, General Grant and General Logan, with a host of lesser, but no more ardent soldiers, the Sucker state looks proudly back on the days of '61-'65.

One of the great institutions of Illinois is the Illinois and Michigan canal, commonly called the drainage canal. It was intended to afford means for water communication between the great lakes and the Mississippi river, but amounts to little more than an outlet for the Chicago river, sufficient to prevent the dangerous contamination of Lake Michigan's waters.

ORIGIN OF HOBSON'S CHOICE.

An Ancient Monopolist Immortalized by Milton.

Now that Lieutenant Hobson has proved himself such a hero the phrase "Hobson's choice" is heard on every side, and some readers may be interested to know its origin.

During Shakespeare's and Milton's time, relates the New York Times, it was the custom for gentlemen to ride home from the theater on horseback, hiring the horse, as we do a cab, at a stand. Naturally each one wished to have the best horse and much confusion ensued, while some poor animals were never taken. A university carrier and the first keeper of a hackney stable at Cambridge, England, named Thomas (or Tobias) Hobson (1544-1631), conceived the plan of placing his horses in line and forcing his customers to take the one nearest the door of the theater. It then became no longer a matter of personal selection, but of "Hobson's choice"—that is, "this or none."

Milton wrote two poems dedicated to Hobson, one of which is appended:

ON THE UNIVERSITY CARRIER, who sickened in the time of his vacancy, being forbid to go to London by reason of the plague.
Here lies old Hobson. Death hath broke his gift,
And here, alas! hath laid him in the dirt;
Or else, the ways being foul, twenty to one
He's here stuck in a slough and overthrown.
'Twas such a shifter that, if truth were known,
Death was half glad when he had got him down.
For he had any time this ten years full
Dodged with him betwixt Cambridge and the Bull,
And surely death could never have prevailed,
Had not his weekly course of carriage failed;
But lately, finding him so much at home,
And thinking now his journey's end was come,
And that he had 't'en up his latest inn,
In kind of office of a chamberlain,
Shoed him his room where he must lodge that night,
Pulled off his boots, and took away the light.
If any ask for him it shall be said,
"Hobson has supped, and 's newly gone to bed."