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NINETY-SIXTH YEAR.

WORLD'S FAIR—NOW OPEN CLOSING DEC. 1.

PRICE (In St. Louis, One Cent.
Outside St. Louis, Two Cents.
In Texas, Three Cents.)

FEATURES OF THE WORLD'S FAIR —BELGIAN ART.

Little Belgium, whose chief consequence in an international sense is its past, was one of the first among the nations to respond enthusiastically to the invitation to participate in the fine arts display at the World's Fair.

It was the very first to be completely ready for the opening, and will be among the very first in the meaning and artistic value of its art showing, when the exhibits by all other countries shall have been so prepared that comparisons may be made.

In the space occupied and in the quality of the pictures the works of the Belgian artists are a focal point of the art galleries. Ten rooms are filled with their paintings, almost as much space as is occupied by France, or by Great Britain or by Germany. And the latter nations devote easily one-half of their respective divisions to sculpture or architecture and to the art crafts, leaving the remainder to painting. But the Belgian art is the Belgian painting, and that almost wholly. Belgium shows nearly as many oil paintings as any other of the European countries.

This would seem inappropriate. One thinks of France, of Germany and of Great Britain—in the order named—as the art-producing countries. So they are, in a sense; but Belgium is the land of painters. It is right then that Belgium, a dot upon the map of Europe, should have so prominent a place in that department of an exposition which is the record of contemporary art.

The painting of a picture for the picture's sake alone is not encouraged as it was in centuries gone. Commercialism in almost all parts of the world wants painting and all art put in the form which serves a commercial purpose. Illustration, decoration and the various fields of the applied arts furnish profits to the artist, while, generally, painting pictures means half-payments in a garret. But all this is not so true in Belgium, and in the fact lies the great significance of Belgium's splendid exhibition of paintings at the World's Fair.

If, as is said, a German is a musician by virtue of his German nationality, then a Belgian is a painter by virtue of his Belgian extraction. The peasant of the fields often tries to paint, and so does the artist of the city. Their mingling is the story of nature, as explained by the brush upon canvas. They love the picture for the picture's sake. Possibly it is that the wild spirit still lives in Belgium, possibly it is something unexplainable which characterized the people, but appreciation of the painting is more generally abroad in Belgium than in any other nation.

Belgium's ten galleries are presided over by Emile A. Vautier, a painter himself, devoting his abilities chiefly to small portraits; "interiors," he calls them. He would picture his subjects, not posed for the occasion in the studio light, but as they look in the quiet light of the home. So are they daily seen by those who know them best, and his idea is to show them thus. He is represented with three things in the exhibit.

Mr. Vautier is a very busy little man, who enjoys a perfect sample of the artist or Van Dyke board. He was not too busy yesterday, however, to tell about Belgium's paintings. This he did in his business manner and with a commendable hesitancy in mentioning his own pictures. "We have," he declared, "the best display of modern Belgian work which has been collected into one exhibit, better and larger than at Chicago."

His pronunciation of English was as the American French, but his confidence in the excellence of Belgian paintings—and with reason—knew no bounds. The only echo of the "old masters" which pervades these galleries is in the mural decorations, where the names of the Netherlands, the Rubens, Van Dyke, the Van Eyck, etc., are painted into the fresco. It is all of the modern.

One is struck by sharp contrasts between the pictures in subjects and in the manner of painting. Beside a quiet and studious study, which seems distinctly to be

of the Netherlands in character, will appear a brilliant example of impressionistic or prismatic work, which seems hardly in tune with one's conception of the Belgian method. Mr. Vautier declares that this is logical, since the Belgium of to-day is so closely in touch with the great capitals of Europe that the Belgian painters are influenced by the contrary of those.

Though the cosmopolitan trend of modern-day painting is illustrated in this forcible manner, there is a plenty that has a national appropriateness, from which to glean glimpses of life as it is lived in Belgium. The landscapes are particularly interesting, observed from this point of view.

One, for instance, by Victor Gilsoul shows a winding canal, skirted on either side by a line of tall trees. In perspective, the waterway vanishes into the distance where the dim outlines of a city—Bruges—are seen. The picture is delightfully cool and green, full of the fertility of those low, flat lands which have supported large populations these hundreds of years.

The picture shows that the painter knows his own country and loves it well enough to succeed in the interpretation of its simple, low-stretching, fenced farm areas; or of the quaint, time-stained, gray-red buildings of the cities. From such studies as these by this man Gilsoul, or others by Ferdinand Willaert, or by Frans Courtens, one may get into the spirit of the old-old scenes of Belgium as well as of time and means had permitted of a residence there.

In the figure painting is found something of the same differences. On the one hand are the productions of the men who strive for individualism and use "stronous"—the word has application—technical methods, far from the native Dutch or Belgian. On the other hand are the interpretations of the homely life of the land, of the peasant at his work, of the "gute frau" in her home, of the village, wooden-shoed, busybodies, gossiping.

Among the former, the most prominent is Leempoels. Next, Leveque. Leempoels has one canvas, moderately large, in which out of a dark sky looms a stern but intellectual face, and upstretched to the face are many hands, as if raised in appeal. Nothing but hands and the face. It is called "Destiny and Humanity." There are hundreds of hands, so skillfully is the composition arranged.

It is the artist's design and pride that a distinct character is expressed in each pair of hands. He holds that as much of individuality belongs to the hand of every man as to the features of the countenance. The result, both as to treatment and as to subject, compels attention, and this picture always had a crowd about it. But whether they admire or merely wonder what Mr. Leempoels is driving at is an open question.

Among the more literal painters, interest is divided between Larumans, Van der Ouderkerk, Earl de Lalain, Dierckx and Vanasse. Van der Ouderkerk shows something of that excessive love for detail which, as we faintly remember from our art histories, belonged to the early Dutch painters. He has one large canvas which is a careful representation of some sort of figure—ages function. The cavaliers and the court dames, the retainers and the attendants, down to the very gleam of the diamond upon milady's little finger, are painted with a remarkable industry and a mastery skill.

Two very smartly dressed young couples, evidently out of a slight-seeing, ventured into the art galleries yesterday. But they had gone to a little way when one said: "Let's get out of here. It'll take all day to see this."

That was true. It will take two or three or four days. Which is as it should be. But don't hurry. The best way is to see the galleries leisurely by a visit now and then. Do them too rapidly and the impression is only pictures, pictures, pictures—miles of pictures. A little time every day that you are at the Fair, used with a little method, and the pictures, pictures, pictures, will tell another story.

JAPANESE ARTILLERY MOVED OVER NEW ROADS TO THE SEAT OF WAR.



PART OF GENERAL KUROKI'S BATTERIES ON THE WAY TO WJU FROM PING-YANG. Many of the native roads became impassable after the spring thaw, but the Japanese had foreseen the difficulty and had prepared new roadways through bogs and morasses, which held up well under the weight of horses, guns and ammunition sent north. It was this that made victory comparatively easy for the Japanese in their fight at Chulien-Cheng, where the advantage in large guns was entirely on their side.

CANNIBALS MAY HAVE EATEN HIM.

Fears Entertained for Safety of World's Fair's African Explorer.

WENT TO CONGO FOR PIGMIES.

Letter Last Received From S. P. Verner Was Written in Africa, February 28—Scout Visits Southern California.

Whether twelve African pigmies, wanted for the Anthropological Section of the World's Fair, are on their way to St. Louis, or whether S. P. Verner, a former missionary, who was sent in quest of them, has been interrupted in his journey and eaten by the wild men of the Congo, are questions which are at present agitating officials of the Exposition.

Verner was last heard from in a letter mailed in Africa and dated February 28. In this letter he said that he was just about to start into the interior of the Congo State and expected to return soon with the African pigmies.

Verner left St. Louis last December, and with the exception of his letter of February 28, little has been heard from him. He has visited the heart of Africa several times, and although the country which he was to visit is inhabited by cannibals, who like nothing better than human flesh for the table, Mr. Verner was eager for the trip and confident that he would secure the much-wanted pigmies.

Professor W. J. McGee, who is in charge of the Anthropological Division of the World's Fair, is confident that Verner is safe and sound. Professor McGee argues that "no news from the pigmy agent is good news."

Others, however, are inclined to find reason for alarm in his continued silence, and if he has not been heard from within the next week the assistance of the State Department probably will be sought.

AFTER STRANGE INDIANS. The Anthropological Department of the World's Fair has gone to the ends of the earth in its search for strange and primitive people. "Arizona Bill," a noted southwestern scout, is now in Lower California in the hope of inducing a tribe of Seriian Indians to come to the World's Fair.

It is said that these Indians are the most primitive folk on the North American Continent. They bear not a single characteristic to the Indian of the United States, Canada or the main section of Old Mexico. They look with scorn upon all palefaces. White men who have crossed their path have been killed, with few exceptions, and they bear an even more intense hatred for members of other tribes of red men.

They understand the value of money and Arizona Bill's only hope of inducing them to visit the Exposition lies in his wallet, which is well filled with American money.

Arizona Bill is well acquainted with the Lower California territory, and he also speaks the language of the Seriian. Professor McGee is confident that the scout can take care of himself and that he will accomplish his purpose.

KUROPATKIN IS IN DANGEROUS POSITION; FUNG-WANG-CHENG REPORTED FALLEN.

Russian Commander Near That Point, Trying to Rally Forces Retreating From the Yalu, Fears Flanking Movement Which He Cannot Well Counteract—Japanese Now Have 30,000 Men on Liao-Tung Peninsula.

PORT ARTHUR IS NOW COMPLETELY BOTTLED UP BY JAPS.

RUSSIAN BULLETIN. Seoul, May 6.—A dispatch from Antung states that it is rumored there that the Japanese captured Fung-Wang-Cheng on May 4, after fierce fighting. Losses are reported very heavy.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Fung-Wang-Cheng is the town to which a remnant of the Russian Army fled after the defeat on May 2. In earlier dispatches it was indicated that the Japanese troops were following up their victory, and a battle was expected.)

St. Petersburg, May 6.—Thirty thousand Japanese soldiers occupy the Liao-Tung Peninsula, from Pitsewo, on the east coast, to Polandien, near Port Adams, on the west, about twenty miles from Pitsewo.

Port Arthur, with its 10,000 defenders, is utterly isolated, for, though it is not officially admitted here, it is generally understood that the harbor is really closed for all large craft since the latest Japanese attempt to "bottle up" the warships there.

Meantime, General Kuropatkin, who has hurried to Fung-Wang-Cheng to rally the shattered forces falling back from the Yalu, has received reinforcements from Liao-Yang, and heavy fighting there is expected before Sunday night.

Kuropatkin is keeping a sharp lookout lest the Japanese undertake a flanking movement, which he is not in an advantageous position to counteract.

JAP SOLDIERS WADED BOLDLY TO THE SHORE. According to information received here, seven Japanese transports appeared off Pitsewo Wednesday evening. The next day their number was augmented to about forty, and they came to land men at Cape Terminal, about fifteen miles south of Pitsewo, under cover of an artillery fire from several cruisers and gunboats.

The first landing party was composed entirely of sailors. It was at low tide, and the sailors could not use boats, but they leaped into the sea, and, carrying their rifles above their heads, waded as rapidly as they could, breast deep in water, about 1,000 yards. Immediately they took possession of a range of hills.

As soon as the Japanese flag was seen on the heights, soldiers began to wade ashore. At the same time about sixty more transports were observed bearing down toward the shore all the way from Pitsewo to Cape Terminal, and the small Russian force in the vicinity, which had lost several men through the cannonade, began to retire. The Russian inhabitants of Pitsewo abandoned the town.

REGIMENTS SENT AT ONCE TO LOOK FOR RUSSIANS. Last night, fully 10,000 Japanese were quartered in the Chinese villages adjacent to the landing place, and today the remainder of two divisions, comprising, all together, about 30,000 men, was landed.

Two regiments were dispatched from Pitsewo immediately, one toward the west, the other toward the south. To-day a passenger train from Port Arthur was fired upon at Polandien, the railway station of Port Adams, by about 100 Japanese infantrymen. The train carried 200 sick soldiers, two of whom were wounded, though the hospital car bore a Red Cross flag. The train arrived at Polandien, but communication with that place and points further south is now interrupted and the Japanese doubtless have cut the telegraph lines.

Viceroy Alexeff and Grand Duke Boris, who arrived at Mukden today, are receiving congratulations on their narrow escape from isolation with General Stoessel at Port Arthur. Their departure from the fortress, it is stated, was considerably hastened by the knowledge that Japanese transports were off Pitsewo and Kin-Chow. Details of the reported landing of troops near Kin-Chow or Port Adams yesterday, as reported from Yln-Kow, have not been received.

LIST OF DEAD IN TEXAS GROWS.

Twenty Persons at Least Believed to Have Been Killed in Tornado.

MANY MORE ARE INJURED.

Nearly a Thousand Persons Are Homeless in Kansas City Suburbs as Result of Freshets.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Dallas, Tex., May 6.—The tornado in Northwest Texas last night killed Mrs. Mary Wagley, her daughter Anna and G. Anthony at Moran. A dozen persons are seriously injured, but not fatally. At Putnam one man was killed and one woman injured. Their names have not been learned.

A negro cabin was swept into the Brazos River, five miles above the Texas and Pacific crossing, and three negro men were drowned.

A work train was blown from the railroad tracks near Crescon, and George Sommers and William Apple, negro laborers, drowned. About twenty houses were wrecked at Moran, and a half dozen at Putnam. Hundreds of head of live stock are reported killed in Shackelford and adjoining counties, and crops are badly injured by rain, wind and hail.

During the blinding storm near Phelps two trains collided, and Conductor Austin and Fireman Armstrong were killed. Wire service is yet badly crippled, and reports are incomplete, but it is believed that the lives lost in isolated places will swell the total to twenty.

A report received this evening tells of a cyclone near Cordell, Ok., just north of the Texas line. Much property was wrecked, and it is reported that two lives were lost. Railroad property has suffered heavily in the Northwestern Texas storm area.

Reports to-night indicate that part of the Diller Ranch, near Albany, was wrecked and a ranch employe badly hurt. The home of a Mr. Harden, near Throckmorton, was wrecked, and the family badly hurt. Mrs. Harden is unconscious.

At Ruby, John Mullen's house was wrecked, Mr. and Mrs. Mullen were carried nearly 50 yards by the wind. Mrs. Mullen is believed to be fatally hurt. Wesley Spruiell, 14 years old, was killed. At Sunset, in Wise County, M. G. Hardin was badly hurt. Nearly twenty buildings were wrecked, but no person fatally hurt.

KANSAS CITY FEARS FIRE. REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Kansas City, Mo., May 6.—The freshet that made a river of Turkey Creek last night cut off the greater portion of the city's water supply. It took out the bridge that carried the 20-inch water main supplying most of the uptown district, cut off one-half the flow line and crippled two 24-inch mains.

With the exception of the wholesale district in the west bottoms, Kansas City is almost without fire protection to-day. There is no pressure in the fire hydrants, either in the business or residential districts. Chief Trickett, after investigating the condition of the water mains, took every precaution possible to prevent disastrous fires. By 6 o'clock this morning every fire engine in the city, eight in all, were placed in front of the engine-houses and fires were built under the boilers. Although there is no pressure, there is water in the mains, and the engines can be used where hose companies would ordinarily be placed in service.

HOUSTON REPORTS MANY DEAD. REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Houston, Tex., May 6.—Storm news is coming in very slowly, but it is certainly known that there have been many deaths in different parts of the State. Among the known dead are Will Perry, at Harrisburg, killed by lightning; Mrs. Allen-Dennis, G. W. Mason and child of S. T. Harper, at Goldthwaite; Luther Rood, Allen Dennis, Mrs. M. F. Sawyer and child, and Joe Smith are badly hurt at the latter place.

ILLEGAL SALARIES PAID AT ST. LOUIS?

Post-Office Department Discovers Fifteen Stations Outside City's Corporate Limits.

INVESTIGATION TO BE MADE.

Annex at Eighteenth Street and Clark Avenue Will Be Opened for Business May 16.

Washington, May 6.—The Post-Office Department has discontinued fifteen postal stations outside the corporate limits of St. Louis, and they will be covered by rural free delivery service hereafter. The order is effective on May 31.

The establishment of these offices outside of corporate limits, it is said, is in contravention of law and is said to have been done under orders of the department several years ago, while George W. Beavers was Chief of the Salary and Allowance Division of the Post-Office Department and during Postmaster Baumhoff's reign at St. Louis.

The investigation will be made of the office for salaries paid at these Black Jack stations. The stations affected are Ballwin, Biddie, Mount Auburn, Spring, Florio, High School, Ter and Station, Mattice, Melville, An order has been issued to have the new annex at Clark Avenue and Eighteenth Street opened for business on May 16.

It will be a money-making proposition for all postal supplies will order station and mail order there.

Mitching Girl Lost. Grace Fletcher, 15 years old, has been missing from her home, 2300 Chambers street, since last Tuesday. Her mother, Mrs. J. H. Fletcher, is making every effort to induce her to return to her home. The girl worked at a millinery establishment.

SPEAKER CANNON WELCOMED HOME.

Danville, Ill., Gives Hearty Reception to Its Distinguished Resident.

CANNON'S BOOM LOST WITH HIS TRUNK.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Chicago, May 6.—The Cannon vice presidential boom is lost. "Uncle Joe" himself is authority for this. Likewise two of the Speaker's trunks are missing.

Speaker Cannon, before leaving Chicago at 1 o'clock this afternoon for his home in Danville, discovered that his two trunks were gone. There was no clue as to their whereabouts. As he was hurrying to the depot he was asked for an expression on the political situation.

"Not a word," answered the Speaker with emphasis. Then he added: "I've lost my two trunks. That vice presidential boom is in one of them."

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Danville, Ill., May 6.—Speaker Joseph G. Cannon received an enthusiastic welcome home this afternoon. Many of the business houses closed at 4:30 o'clock and an immense crowd lined the streets. Business houses and dwellings were decorated with flags and bunting.

The train was met by a committee of 20 citizens, appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, a band and thousands of citizens, who escorted him to the Armory Hall. Supreme Justice Jacob W. Wilkin made a short address of welcome.

Speaker Cannon was greeted with an ovation when he arose to speak that for a time threatened to disorganize the program. When he was at last able to be heard, his voice was shaking and tears stood in his eyes as he thanked the assemblage briefly for their testimonial.

"I'd rather have it," he said, "than any other testimonial by any other people or assemblage on the earth. I have lived with you and expect to stay with you to the end. If I have met with any approval as presiding officer of the House, from you or the country, I'm glad. I could not hope to receive the honors and responsibilities of that high office unless you stood by me. The credit is to you, gentlemen."

LEADING TOPICS IN TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

- 1. The Sun Rises This Morning at 4:37 and Sets This Evening at 6:57. The Moon Rises This Morning at 12:48.
- 2. Race Results and Entries. The Republic's Daily Racing Form Charts.
- 3. Baseball Scores.
- 4. Editorial. Book News.
- 5. Chinese Pavilion Opened: Prince Lun Gives Brilliant Reception.
- 6. Presents an Epitome of Cotton Industry. Work of Western Artists in California Building.
- 7. Religious News and Announcements.
- 8. Financial News. Summary of St. Louis Markets.
- 9. The Republic "Want" Ads. Birth, Marriage and Death Records. New Corporations.
- 10. The Republic "Want" Ads.
- 11. The Republic "Want" Ads.
- 12. The Republic "Want" Ads.
- 13. Happenings in Near-By Cities.
- 14. Ends His Life in a Street Car. Duns and Bradstreet's Weekly Reviews.
- 15. City, State and National Politics.

Forecast for St. Louis and Vicinity —Threatening with showers and thunderstorms; no decided change in temperature. For Missouri — Showers Saturday and Sunday. For Illinois—Showers and cooler Saturday, Sunday showers. For Arkansas—Showers Saturday, Sunday fair. For East Texas—Fair Saturday, warmer in east, Sunday fair. For West Texas—Fair Saturday and Sunday.