

THE EVENING NEWS

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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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By Telegraph.

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TO-DAY'S DISPATCHES.

OPENING OF THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

PHILADELPHIA, 10.

10 a. m. The morning was very rainy, with prospect of a steady rainy day. The city is crowded with visitors, trains, steamers, and this morning having come from all directions, with crowds of passengers from abroad. The streets are all ablaze with flags, and notwithstanding the rain, patriotic decorations are numerous and fine. The exhibition opened to the only topic of conversation. Since early in the morning, throngs of people on foot, in street cars, carriages, wagons and steam cars have been pouring toward the Centennial grounds, anticipation of the opening of the games. This morning early a military parade, comprising portions of the first division, took place, passing through the principal streets of the city.

To-day being a legal holiday in this State, all places of business in the city are closed, bunting is displayed in profusion, all thoroughfares, and to-night there will be a grand illumination.

The doors of the Exhibition were not opened until 10:15 a. m., so that far there has been at all the different entrances a continuous jam. The clouds, which had up to 7 a. m. been very threatening, have now entirely disappeared, and until the close of the day will be extremely hot. The first invited guests and other distinguished guests are being seated with very little confusion, their entrance being effected through the main exhibition building, which will remain closed to the general public till noon.

The ceremonies opened at precisely 10:15 a. m., the national airs of all nations being performed by the large orchestra. It is estimated that 50,000 people are on the grounds, and the population is still pressing at all of the various entrances.

Even amid a spot in the neighborhood of the grand stand in front of Memorial Hall is occupied by the crowd, who are now impatiently awaiting the arrival of the President of the U. S., who has just been escorted to the music room by the Mayor at 10:15 a. m. The sky has cleared and the weather is beautiful and sunny, but not too warm. The grounds are in very good condition, in spite of hard rains. The gates open at a later hour, and the crowd has been pouring in ever since. It is roughly estimated that fifty thousand people are now on the grounds, and still there is a constant rush of people through the gates. A spacious platform has been erected at the side of Memorial Hall, north of the center of the main building. Seats are arranged on the platform for officials and other invited guests. At the right of the centre are seats for the Presidents of the various departments of the Cabinet, and further to the right are the seats of the U. S. senators, members of the House of Representatives, governors of various states, with their staffs, state officers, professors, and representatives of the army and navy, Smithsonian Institute, U. S. judges, officers of the executive, of bureaus, and members of the woman's centennial committee. To the left of the centre are seats for the members of the U. S. Supreme Court, and further to the left seats for the members of the diplomatic corps and members of the centennial commission, board of finance, woman's executive committee, foreign commissioners, and other officials of Philadelphia, mayors of other cities, state centennial boards, Board of Award, judges, yacht and rifle clubs.

Along the front of the platform are seats for members of the press, the orchestra of one hundred and fifty pieces, and a corps of one thousand voices under the direction of Theodore Thomas and Dudley Buck, are stationed directly in front of the platform.

At 10:15 the signal was given for the band to play, and five minutes later the President, escorted by General Hawley, advanced to the front of the platform, and was loudly cheered. The orchestra then played "Pomp and Circumstance," during which time the President shook hands with the Emperor and other guests.

It is now 11:30. It is estimated there are a hundred thousand people on the ground.

At 11 o'clock the President and party, accompanied by officials previously designated, proceeded to the platform. The President, having been escorted to the grounds by Governor Hartman, with a division of the military, the platform was at once crowded, and all the surrounding space and all available points of elevation in the neighborhood were already occupied by crowds of visitors. The orchestra, while the seats were being secured, played national airs.

An Emperor of Brazil and party came to see us, and they were loudly cheered, and the orchestra played the Brazilian national hymn. General Hawley greeted the distinguished visitors. The Emperor was in citizen's dress, and wore decorations concealed under the lapels of his coat. The platform was at this time more crowded, and many guests were unprovided with seats.

The inaugural ceremonies were now fully under way. At 10:30 a. m. Dom Pedro arrived and was escorted to his seat by Governor Hawley. At 10:45 Senator Phil Sheridan and wife passed over from the building to the stand in front of Memorial Hall, during the rendition of the national airs, and was greeted with great applause, which he gracfully acknowledged. He was shortly followed by Hon. J. G. Simpson, Senator of Nevada and wife. At 10:45 the President entered through Memorial Hall and was conducted to his seat on the front of the platform, seat of Hartman, General Hawley, and Mr. Morrill occupying seats on his left, while Messrs. John Welsh and Godshorn were on his right. Considerable amusement was caused by the sudden appearance of Fred Douglass, who had by some mischance worked his way through the ranks, and was helped over the ropes by the officers and conducted to a seat on the platform. He was greeted with cheers. At 11:30 Wagner's "Odeon" was performed, and the President, after addressing the audience, at the conclusion of which Mr. Simpson offered up prayer, during the rendering of which the majority of the vast assemblage stood with uncovered heads.

"Almighty and everlasting God,

our heavenly Father, we thank thee, and the earth is thy footstool. Before thy majesty and holiness the angels veil their faces, and the spirits of the just made perfect bow in humble adoration. Thou art the Creator of all things, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers. These minute and the vast atoms and worlds alike attest the ubiquity of thy presence and the omniscience of thy way.

"We thank thee, while the eyes of the world are upon us, for the blessing of thy presence and the guidance of thy power. The minute and the vast atoms and worlds alike attest the ubiquity of thy presence and the omniscience of thy way.

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