

well, we should set ourselves right with God, and if we do this He will not allow any evil spirits to overcome us, or to afflict us, any more than will be sanctified to our good.

May God grant that we may be true and faithful in keeping His commandments, and that we may feel to dedicate our lives and all we possess, realizing that He is the giver of all, to the building up of His kingdom and to the benefitting of our fellow men. We should not wish to live selfish lives. Let us not live for ourselves alone, but live for our fellow beings, and try to spread this Gospel of peace on earth and goodwill to all men to the four ends of the earth, that all who are honest in heart may be led to partake of the blessings that we now enjoy. That we may all remain true and faithful to the covenants we have made with our Father, taking Christ as our example, knowing that it is enough for the servant to be as the Master was, and be patient in carrying any burden that may be placed upon us, that we may gain a home in the presence of our God and in the presence of the Prophet Joseph Smith and all the righteous who have gone before us, is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE TRANSMISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION.

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Omaha, Jan. 14, 1898.—The Trans-Mississippi exposition which is to open here in June will show a development of our western country which will be a surprise to the rest of the United States. During the last two months I have visited all the big cities between Boston and Denver and I find more money and push in the West than ever before. There is undoubtedly a revival of business. The hotels are full everywhere. I find it hard to get good accommodations on the sleeping cars, and the army of commercial travelers is greater than ever before. I was told in St. Paul that the jobbers there had never done so much business as they are now doing. The Chicago merchants are expecting a heavy spring trade, and at Omaha, Denver and Kansas City I have found the people alive and most of them making money. The basis of the prosperity has been the big crops. Here in Nebraska Senator Chas. F. Manderson tells me 35,000,000 bushels of wheat were produced last year, and the corn crop now on hand amounts to something like 500,000,000 bushels. Senator Manderson says that the agricultural products of this state last year will foot up something like \$500,000,000, or a capital value of \$600 per family. In this he includes the packing products, of which there is an enormous amount in Nebraska. He tells me that the farmers are learning how to use their crops. They do not sell their corn, as they did in the past, but manufacture it into pork by feeding it, so that they get a big price per bushel for it. I was told in Denver that the banks had more money than they knew what to do with. Senator Manderson says that the bank deposits here in Omaha will approximate \$20,000,000, and I learn that a similar condition exists in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Until within a few years the West has relied on its corn, wheat and meat to pay the greater part of its expenses. Now the farmers are diversifying their crops. An immense amount of money is going into sugar beets in Nebraska, Utah and Colorado. There is a great sugar beet factory at Grand Island and another at Norfolk. In this state, which are producing thousands of tons of sugar every year. Claus Spreckles has established immense factories in California, and the sugar makers believe the day will soon come when we will make out of beets the hundred million dollars' worth of sugar which we now

import from other countries. I am told that we have better land for raising such sugar than can be found in Europe, and that factories will soon be established in many parts of the United States. The beet sugar industry will be shown at the exposition. Another industry which promises to be worth much to Kansas and Nebraska is the utilization of the pith of the corn stalk for various manufacturing purposes. They are now making a pasteboard something like linoleum out of this pith. It is used for other things, and there are factories which make from it packing to be placed between the outer and inner walls of our war vessels. This cornstalk pith sucks up water like a sponge. It swells the moment the water touches it, and a hole made by a cannon ball will be soon corked up by the swelling produced by the water flowing in.

I found Senator Manderson at the general offices of the Burlington railroad. He is, you know, the counsel for this system west of the Missouri river, and he has I do not know how many thousands of miles of road under him, including connections with all great states of the West. He is thoroughly posted on the condition of the West, and during the chat he gave me some striking figures showing the status of the trans-Mississippi region. Said he:

"The people of the East do not understand us. They have no conception of the extent of the western country nor of the business we do here. I believe New York and Boston are the most provincial cities of the United States and that our exposition will be an eye opener to the rest of the country. Think of it. More than one-fourth of all the people of the United States live west of the Mississippi. We have about twenty million people and we are by no means so poor as is commonly supposed. The assessed valuation of the property held by the trans-Mississippi states aggregate more than six billion dollars. This valuation is not more than one-fourth of the actual value, so that we have all told real and personal property worth at least twenty billion dollars, an average of one thousand dollars per capita. We are fast becoming a great manufacturing section. Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, California, Oregon and Washington are rapidly growing as manufacturing states, so that the products of our factories and mills now amount to more than a billion dollars a year."

"Your chief products are, however, agricultural, are they not?"

"They are both agricultural and mineral, but the agricultural far exceeds the mineral. Our corn crop is annually worth over two hundred million dollars. It exceeds the annual gold output of the world by a number of millions. Our wheat crop amounts to something like 300,000,000 bushels a year and we make about \$150,000,000 worth of hay every year. The packing interests are very large. The center of the packing industry is moving westward. Omaha, Kansas City and St. Joseph now kill enormous quantities of live stock and new packing houses are being built here and also at St. Joseph."

"As to minerals, the West produces \$100,000,000 worth of gold and silver a year, and its production of copper and other minerals amounts to more than that sum. Why, some of the richest coal fields of the country are in the West. Colorado claims to have more coal than Pennsylvania. There is coal in Montana and Utah, and we produce now something like 20,000,000 tons annually in the trans-Mississippi states. We have good iron, and there will be great manufacturing centers in some of the western sections in the future."

"How about the mortgages, senator?"

"A great many of the farm mortgages have already been paid off, and another year or so of good crops will put Nebraska and Kansas square with the world. The terrified banker of the East need not be afraid of the West. Our people will pay all that they owe, and if the present condition continues we will soon be sending money east to loan. This is the granary of America, and, as long as the people of the East want to keep themselves fat they must pay us for our corn, wheat and meat. We have in Texas the greatest of the cotton producing states. We produce more than half the cotton, I think, every year, and we will always be furnishing the rest of the United States with clothes, for our woolen product is equally large. We will always furnish the money in the shape of precious metals, and I don't see how it is possible for us to be otherwise than extremely prosperous in times to come."

Leaving Senator Manderson, I next called at the headquarters of the Trans-Mississippi exposition, and had a chat with J. B. Haynes, one of the secretaries, as to the progress of the work. With Mr. Haynes I took a street car ride out to the exposition grounds, and made some photographs of the buildings as they are now in process of erection. The site of the exposition is within the city limits. The ride to it from the center of the city takes about ten minutes. The grounds are upon a broad plateau, lying along the Missouri river, so that you see the buildings as you come in on the railroads. There are something like 200 acres in the exposition grounds proper, with additional territory on the opposite side of the road. One of the most beautiful features of the grounds is a wide lagoon running through them from one end to the other. This has been made by excavating the earth and walling the sides of the pit with boards. The lagoon is, I judge, about 400 feet wide at one end and less than this at the other. It was covered with ice during our visit, and hundreds of boys and girls were skating to and fro upon it. The boarded walls are to be hidden by staff, so that they will look like marble, and ornamented with electric lights, transforming it into a beautiful waterway, upon which gondolas, canoes and other boats of various kinds will ply from one building to another. At the eastern end of the canal the ground will be built up in terraces, adorned with shrubbery and flowers, ending in a great stairway, crowned by a kiosk. There will be a number of grottoes built here, lighted with electric lights, in which the blue grotto of Capri and Mammoth Cave will be reproduced.

Along this grand canal or lagoon all the main buildings are located. Many of these are almost completed. The manufactures buildings is still a forest of rafters and other kinds of lumber. The framework, however, is up as high as the roof and a portion of the roof has already been put on. There were perhaps a hundred carpenters at work on it during my stay, and the sound of the hammer was to be heard in every part of the grounds. This building covers several acres. It will, when finished, look very much like one of the Chicago world's fair buildings and will be finished in the same way.

The agricultural building is almost completed, and all of the buildings with the exception of the government building are well under way. There are, I judge, at least half a dozen great structures already ready for roofing and I am told that the work will be rapidly pushed in the spring. The government building, for which Congress has appropriated \$200,000, is by no means far advanced. The foundation has been dug, but little more than this can be done before spring. This building will be at the head of the lagoon.