

MARCH 18, 1915

THE
CONGREGATIONALIST
AND
CHRISTIAN
WORLD



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THE SAN DIEGO EXPOSITION. CALIFORNIA STATE BUILDING
From the Laguna de Cabrillo

The PILGRIM PRESS
Boston — Chicago

Plucky Little San Diego and Her Exposition

A Beautiful and Significant Exhibit

By Rev. Willard Brown Thorp

THE San Francisco Exposition is not the only attraction on the Pacific Coast this year. Even before the city of the Golden Gate had undertaken her world's fair, San Diego, in Southern California, then a town of only 35,000, had projected and financed an exposition of her own to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal, for whose traffic she will be the first American port of call.

THE PICTURESQUE ENVIRONMENT

Her population has since more than doubled, and the buildings of her Exposition now stand complete and resplendent in beauty in the center of the great fourteen-hundred acre Balboa Park, which crowns hills overlooking the bay and ocean.

While in point of size and splendor San Diego's Exposition is not to be mentioned with the one at San Francisco, those who have visited both believe it will leave a far more distinctive impression on the mind of the tourist. The architects have been given a free hand to reproduce the typical plazas of a Spanish colonial city, and probably that type of architecture can now be studied here to better advantage than anywhere else. Indeed, every phase of Spanish architecture in America is represented, from the earliest mission form in the curious New Mexico building, through the California mission form with its plain walls and long arched cloisters, to the great dome and campanile of the California State Building, which might be a Spanish colonial cathedral of the most ornate type.

The approach to the group of buildings is across a lofty arched bridge spanning a cañon. Semi-tropical vegetation is seen in profusion everywhere. Indeed, not the least wonderful thing about the Exposition is the way in which the brown hills of the park have been transformed into a paradise of verdure. A model farm, with the orange, the lemon, the grapefruit and other citrus products, is one of the features. The horticultural building is a huge "lath house" of much architectural beauty; for the lath house is the Southern California substitute for the glass-covered hothouses of the East. And from any point in the grounds vistas of surpassing loveliness are seen through the branches of the palm and the pepper, with the ocean, Point Loma or the mountains of Mexico in the distance.

Ethnology has a prominent place. Under the direction of Dr. E. L. Hewett, one of the leading archaeologists of America, huge casts of the mammoth monoliths recently unearthed at Quirigua, Guatemala, are now shown to the public for the first time. A whole building is given over to rare exhibits of the history of man from the Smithsonian Institution.

REPRODUCING INDIAN CHARACTERISTICS

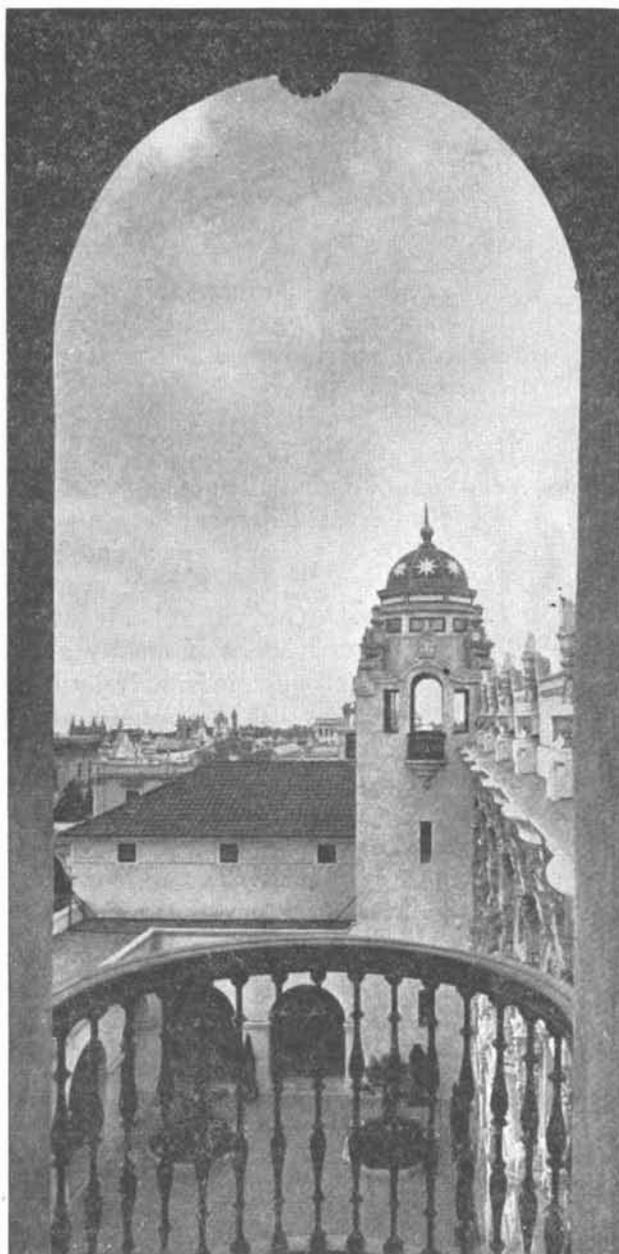
But the most popular of the ethnological exhibits is the contribution of the Santa Fé Railroad. It is a faithful reproduction of the pueblos of the Hopi Indians and also, in another section, of the cliff dwellings of the Navajos. As one enters the inclosure one is transported to the "Great American Desert" of the old geographies, with Indian pueblos rising in every direction, and in the center the sacred "kiva" or ceremonial cavern of the Hopis. When I took Professor Clay, the Yale archaeologist, through it he exclaimed: "Why did I take the trouble to go all those weary miles to San Ildefonso last week? Here it is to the very life."

A score or more of Indians are here, assisting in the construction, and living just as they would on the New Mexican desert, whose very colors and outcropping ledges of rock are faithfully imitated. They balked at first at the sight of impious hands erecting the sacred "kiva" to be exhibited to strangers, but were finally propitiated. Mr. Nusbaum, the young archaeologist in charge, is having the opportunity of a scholar's lifetime, being given a free hand to create on the shores of the Pacific and regardless of expense a perfect reproduction of the home scenes of two of the most interesting of the ancient peoples of America. More than a hundred of these Indians inhabit the two villages.

In its business aspect the San Diego fair has been planned as a practical field of study for the home-seeker, having been so arranged that any one proposing to settle in any part of the great Southwest can study here in graphic portrayal the exact conditions he will find in any locality. He can observe just

what land is available and what it is good for, and just how far his home would be from the nearest church and school-house. He can travel all over the Southwest within the circuit of this Exposition and then lift his eyes to the towers and arches of ancient missions, and the acacias and oleanders and orange trees of Southern California.

Let no one suppose that the San Diego Exposition is any mere local affair. The money, the enterprise and the energy have come in large measure from the locality. But it was the



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EXPOSITION BUILDING. VIEW FROM THE EAST

foresight of our own Congregational layman, George W. Mars-ton, which led to the selection of some of the ablest men in the country and their enlistment in the enterprise. The landscape gardening was begun under the direction of Frederic Law Olmstead. The widely-known architects, Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson, are responsible for the singular beauty of the group of buildings. Frank P. Allen, the young director of works of the Seattle Exposition, has had entire charge of the development and execution of the plans. The little city rose up in arms when the salary at which he was engaged four years ago was made known, and dubbed him "Twenty-thousand-dollar Allen." But Frank Allen has made good, and when on the first of December he turned over to the directors every building of the Exposition finished and ready for occupancy, his severest critics admitted that the money had been well spent.

San Diego.