

# TENNESSEE'S CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION

## NASHVILLE. MAY 1\* NOV. 1. 1897.



**JOHN W. THOMAS, PRESIDENT.**



**JOHN SEVIER, FATHER AND FIRST GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE**

President McKinley placed the tip of his right forefinger on a tiny electric button in his office at the white house at noon on Saturday. Then he pressed it lightly and a thousand miles away in the Southland the massive machinery of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition was set in motion. Flags of all nations leaped from a hundred pinacles and "Old Glory" floated out over the scene from the top of the giant flagstaff, while the sons and daughters of Tennessee and of all states, gathered in thousands to hear recited the simple story of why the exposition is, mingled their shouts with reverberations of saluting guns.

These opening exercises were simple and dignified, befitting the character of the men who have made Nashville's superb white city. In brief addresses the governor of the state and the chief officers of the exposition celebrated the history of Tennessee, interpreted the spirit of the occasion, narrated briefly what has been done and then invited the whole nation to participate in the benefits.

**Triumph of Nashville.**  
No word of boastfulness, no syllable of self-glorification was heard. There has been erected here the greatest, the broadest, the most beautiful and the most complete exposition ever built without government aid. It is big enough to represent the whole nation, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Canada to the gulf—more than 200 acres of park land, with all the concomitants of shady walks, groves, lakes and flowers enough to deck the garden of a fairy queen. Its scope, literally and figuratively, is broader than any state, any section, over-reaching even national boundaries and bringing together the products of all civilized peoples. The arts and sciences, education and commerce, history and productive possibility, the skill of handicraft which transmutes the coarse material of mother earth into the daintiest possessions of earth's inhabitants and the genius which preserves the dreams of the poet and artist for the delight of humbler beings—all are represented within the walls of these white palaces. In its parts and in its entirety it has all the completeness of the master workman's finished product, all the beauty of the artist's conception.

From end to end it is the work of Nashville—of Nashville, the modest capital of a modest state, a city which is outclassed by a score of American cities in numerical strength and industrial importance, a city where less than 100,000 people live. Nashville men conceived the idea. Nashville men gave the brains which has given that idea form in landscape and architecture. Nashville dollars have paid the bills to the last cent. The last spadeful of earth has been turned, the last brick laid, the last nail driven and paid for and the result is offered to the people of the whole country with the simple invitation, "Come and see." The men of Nashville who have done all this look for their reward only in the personal consciousness of work well done and in the admiration of their fellows for the fabric they have reared. As one looks at this exposition with the mind's eye, taking in the associations which cluster around the landmarks, old and new, aboriginal and transplanted from other lands and other ages, one wonders at the audacity of the original conception and marvels that so much of this gray old world's life story can be told on so small a page.

In the beginning, this exposition was planned to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of the "volunteer state." Pioneers of the same blood as those who laid the foundations of this nation and cemented the stones with their blood, carved a state out of the wilderness embracing the rivers of "the big bend." June 1, 1796, the star of Tennessee was admitted to constellation of states, and these pioneers took upon themselves all the responsibilities of the new distinction. For a hundred years those responsibilities have been borne—how well the history of the whole country tells. The name "volunteer" state was given and confirmed in repeated baptisms of fire.

Tennessee riflemen, led by Jackson of Tennessee, rolled back the tide of British red coats at New Orleans. In the Florida everglades Tennessee men overthrew the bloodthirsty Seminole's wigwags with draughts from his own

veins and settled the tranquility of the then southern frontier. The warlike Cherokee was taught by them to love peace.

Sons of the same men were with Taylor on the plains of Palo Alto and before the walls of Monterey, followed Scott from Vera Cruz through the passes of the Cordilleras and wrote their names in bullets at Cerro Gordo, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Three presidents this state has given to the nation—Jackson, Polk and Taylor—and it has fostered such men as Benton, Houston and Davy Crockett. In the late war, although split in half, it gave still the "volunteer state." It gave 60,000 men to the northern army, more than any state of the north which has boasted more loudly since, and had in the confederate ranks more men than there were voters within its boundaries. When it was proposed to build an exposition to celebrate these memories Tennessee was still the "volunteer state," and this white city was built by volunteers.

**Sectionalism Wiped Out.**  
The exposition represents further the wiping out of the last remnant of sectionalism in the state and nation. No commonwealth in the union was more completely divided than Tennessee in 1861. Here it was

litterally true that old ties of friendship were severed and brother fought against brother. But the bitterness engendered by those days has waned. On the exposition board, working side by side with a common purpose, there have been soldiers of the north and of the south. It used to be east, middle and west Tennessee, and the divisions were recognized by the state constitution. The exposition represents all of Tennessee and imaginary lines have been obliterated.

The white city is built on ground once soaked with blood of federal and confederate alike in the battle of Nashville. Union cavalry charged across the level ground and from the hills behind cannon pounded the Hardin pike while Thomas and Hood strove for the mastery. Now the stars and stripes float over a new scene, illustrative of the arts of peace. This summer the veterans of the G. A. R. and the remnants of gray-clad brigades will camp again on this historic ground in all amity.

**All States Represented.**  
In the exposition, as built, no sectional lines are recognized in grounds or buildings or exhibits within. It stands first for Tennessee, second for the south and third for the whole nation. For Tennessee and the whole south it offers an object less in resources, progress and development. The north, the east and the west are not forgotten, though, in these minor details of products of loom and forge, workshop and factory; but those sections are remembered in more comprehensive fashion by the invitation Tennessee has extended to them to come and see and participate. They have responded, too, not only in word of formal politeness, but in deed. Commissions from every state are enrolled among the workers who have helped to build and equip this white city and special buildings have been erected to show that the people of New York and Illinois are as much at home here as the people of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Then, as one looks at the exposition again, the mind reaches outward, over leaping the boundaries of states and nations and bridging the gaps of time. There was the great pyramid of Cheops built in the dawn of this world's history by a people now for-

gotten save for the fragmentary records committed to imperishable stone, a people which tottered on the verge of oblivion when Julius Caesar ruled, and which was sunk in slavery when the Christian era was born. It is here photographed in timber and stone. Here is the Parthenon, last remnant of ancient Grecian civilization at its highest and of the best art the world has ever known. It has been dragged from beneath the debris of near three thousand years and set up again in the midst of surroundings the most modern. Here is the negro building, with its story of a people but one generation removed from bondage and almost savagery, commanding attention for its giant strides upward toward the pinnacle where the sun of progress always shines.

All around are the evidences of what men are doing today in the varied vocations which claim the exercise of hand and brain. Away off and outside the exposition boundaries lies the everyday life of the modern world, city and town, village and farm land, roads, sky-touching business blocks and electric lights. The Rialto of Venice, symbol of the medieval age, rises near the pyramid of the Cheops, spanning a ribbon of water so narrow it looks as if a boy might leap it, with one foot on the side of the nineteenth century and the other at the door of the Parthenon. Three thousand years are here linked by a few wooden beams. The pyramidal symbol of uncounted centuries looks on. The flag of the American nation floats high overhead.

Something of all these varied aspects of Nashville's white city entered the hearts of the thousands who stood in the exposition auditorium last Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. Right Reverend Thomas F. Gallor, coadjutor bishop of Tennessee, invoked divine blessings. President J. W. Thomas offered the completed work to the people. Gov. Taylor spoke for Tennessee. Director General Lewis told what had been done and delivered the keys to President Thomas. The band played and the audience sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Hail, Columbia," "Dixie" and "America."

The following special days have been asked for and will be assigned later:  
Brooklyn day, corporation day, Scotch-Irish day, Marble day, Ireland's day, German-American day, Swiss day, Iron day, Chamber of Commerce day, police day, miners' day, railway men's day and printers' day.

**Conventions Planned.**  
As if special days were not enough to insure the attendance of good crowds at the exposition, Nashville has set out to gather all of the 3,000 conventions of one kind and another which meet in this country during the summer and fall. Commissioner General Willis has been after them. Among those which have agreed to meet here or to come here in a body on adjournment elsewhere, with the dates of meeting, are the following: May—1-3, Supreme senate, K. A. Essene Order; 7-8, Freight Claim Association; 12, National Association of Stove Manufacturers, will meet in Detroit and come to Nashville after adjournment; 14, Wolverine State Press Association, meet in Utica, Mich., and come to Nashville in a body, reaching here May

14, and remain three days; 17, National Good Citizens' convention; 17-18, women's musical congress; 18, United Order Golden Cross, supreme commandery; 19, Hocking and Ohio Valley Press Association; 19-20, Tennessee State Bankers' Association; 28, State Press Association of South Carolina, meet in Newberry, S. C., May 25 and 26, and come to Nashville in a body, May 28; in May, but no fixed date, national road parliament and farmers' congress; southern irrigation congress, June—1-5, National T. P. A. of America; 1-5, Grand Lodge Knights and Ladies' of Honor; 2, state convention Republican League of Tennessee; 2, Grand Army of the Republic, Tennessee department; 2, Alabama and Tennessee divisions of Sons of Veterans and Women's Relief Corps of Tennessee; 8, State of Tennessee Master Plumbers' Association; 9, Knights and Ladies of Dixie; 10, Alabama Press Association arrive in Nashville; 15, Tennessee Press Association; 20, National Association of Labor Commissioners of the United States; 21-22, surviving Terry Texas rangers; 22-23-24, United Confederate Veterans; 24-25, Mississippi Press Association, July—20, International Association of Distributors; 20-23, Senate National Union; 21, Tennessee Druggists' Association, August—3-5, Stenographers' Centennial Association; 17, Crockett Clan; 17, Daughters of America Auxiliary to the Junior Order United American Mechanics; 30, general insurance agents' convention; unplaced, Lumber Manufacturers' Association, September—7-8-9, United States Veterinary Medical Association; 9-10, American Fruit Growers' Union; 21-23, National Association Mexican War Veterans; 23-26, Na-



tional Spiritualists' grand mass convention; 27, journeymen plumbers, gas fitters, steam fitters and steam fitters' helpers of the United States and Canada, October—1-15, American Society of Religious Education; 4-8, National Pythian Press Association; 6-10, American Society of Municipal Improvement; 7-10, Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution; 7-9, commercial men's congress; 8-9, American Association State Weather Service; 12, Tri-state Medical Society of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee; 12-15, American Association of Traveling Passenger Agents; 13-15, American Humane Association; 13-15, Sigma Nu fraternity; 15-16, American Medical Association of Colored Physicians; 18-21, Internal Revenue Employees' National Association; 19-20-21, Southern Homeopathic Medical Association; 19-24, congress of religions; 26, National Council of Women. The following organizations are coming, but dates have not been announced: National conference of state boards of health, Afro-American Press Association, National

Congress of Afro-American Women, United Typothetae of North America, National Young Men's Christian Association (colored), American Federation of Labor, Conference of charities and corrections for the southern states, American Forestry Association.

**Men Who Have Done the Work.**  
The following list comprises the officers, standing committees and department chiefs of the exposition, upon whom the task has devolved of making it a success:

Officers—President, John W. Thomas; first vice president, Van Leer Kirkman; second vice president, W. A. Henderson, Knoxville; third vice president, John Overton, Jr., Memphis; secretary, Charles E. Curry; treasurer, W. P. Tanner; director general, E. C. Lewis; commissioner general, A. W. Willis; director of affairs, William L. Dudley; auditor, Frank Goodman; general counsel, S. A. Champion.

Executive Committee—J. W. Thomas, E. E. Barthell, G. H. Baskette, H. E. Palmer, J. C. Neely, A. H. Robinson, Tully Brown, J. H. Fall, J. W. Thomas, Jr., J. H. McDowell, J. W. Baker, Thos. D. Fife, W. L. Dudley, L. E. Wright, John I. McCann, H. W. Buttorff, S. M. Murphy, M. J. Dalton, J. Vanderventer, H. H. Lurton, E. W. Cole, W. H. Jackson, B. F. Wilson, V. L. Kirkman, W. P. Tanner, S. A. Champion, W. A. Henderson, S. J. Keith, E. C. Lewis, J. Overton, Jr.

Department and Bureau Chiefs—Promotion and publicity, Herman Just; fine arts, Theodore Cooley; commerce and manufactures, J. H. Bruce.

**Artificial Rubies.**  
In a recent lecture Prof. A. P. Brown of Philadelphia described the methods now practised for making artificial rubies. Although minute diamonds can be made, with the aid of the electric furnace, none large enough to be employed in jewelry have yet been produced. But rubies of large size, and as fine in color and appearance as the best natural gems, have been made. The ruby is composed of oxide of aluminum. A certain method of detecting artificial rubies is by examination with a microscope. The natural gem is always filled with minute cracks, invisible to the naked eye, but perfectly discernible with a high magnifying power. The artificial ruby has no cracks, but, on the other hand, is filled with minute bubbles, or gas-holes. This test, according to Prof. Brown, is the only one by which the best artificial rubies can be distinguished from the same gems as nature makes them.

The calamity on the Chodinka meadow, at Moscow, cost the Russian government 3,500,000 rubles.

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### PROMINENT OFFICERS OF THE EXPOSITION.



1-Adjutant General Charles Sykes, Chief Military Department; 2-T. F. P. Allison, Chief of Agricultural Department; 3-Dr. James M. Safford, Chief of Minerals Department; 4-A. E. Baird, Chief of the Forestry Department; 5-Dr. J. D. Plunnett, Chief of Department of Hygiene; 6-George Reyer, Chief of Machinery Department; 7-J. H. Bruce, Chief of Commerce Department; 8-Mrs. S. W. Fall, Chairman Building and Interior Decorations; 9-Mrs. C. N. Groves, Chairman of Memphis, Vice President for West Tennessee; 10-Mrs. Mary Boyce Temple, Vice President for East Tennessee; 11-Mrs. M. S. Lebeck, Chairman Music Committee; 12-Mrs. J. Hunter Orr, Chairman Decorative and Applied Arts; 13-Mrs. Matthew Barrow Fitcher, Chairman of Space Committee; 14-Mrs. James Marshall, Head Chairman Historical Colonial Relics.