

### PLANETARIUM NEARS COMPLETION CHICAGO

Gift of Max Adler to City at Cost of \$750,000; Description Given

Nearing completion on an island in Lake Michigan near the Field Museum in Chicago's Planetarium, the first in the United States. It is the gift of Max Adler of Chicago to the city to popularize and dramatize astronomy so the layman may get a new vision of the heavens.

Mr. Adler had three ideas in mind when he decided to give three quarters of a million dollars for the planetarium. They were; first, to further the progress of science; second, to enable people to observe the action of the heavenly bodies as heretofore only astronomers have been able to do; and third, as he expressed it, to emphasize that all mankind, rich and poor, powerful and weak, as well as nations here and abroad constitute part of one universe and under the great celestial firmament there is no division or cleavage, but rather interdependence and unity.

#### Built of Granite

The building itself will comprise three twelve-sided tiers, built of granite and surmounted by a gleaming copper dome, eighty-five feet across. Each side of the structure is to be decorated with bronze plaques now being sculptured by Alphonse Lanelli, one of the country's foremost sculptors. Each plaque will depict an imaginative and symbolic representation of one of the 12 signs of the Zodiac. The building will be approached with terraces and balustrades.

Within is the great dome and the planetarium itself, a mechanical instrument which produces a photographic picture of the solar system. Spectators are to be seated all around it in tiers and the Zeiss projector occupies a central position on the floor.

As the instrument which projects the heavens is thrown into operation the white dome pales and vanishes into a light-blue canopy. The sun, moon and planets burst forth in the skies. The stars ascend from the east and disappear in the west.

#### Can Speed Up Motion

The motions of the heavenly bodies can be speeded up at will. Thus a "day" in the universe, which is determined by the procession of the equinoxes and which lasts 26,000 years in reality, can be reduced to ten minutes or one. Similarly our earthly day of 24 hours becomes one of a few minutes, if necessary, with planets moving in their orbits at a sensational speed.

It will be possible to show any star as it appeared in the past or as it will appear in the future, and from any given part of the earth. Thus visitors to the Chicago planetarium will observe how the stars appeared to explorers at the North and South Poles and how they appeared in the time of David. An illusion of a marvelous sky on an ideal night is obtained, because in nearly total darkness the eye is especially sensitive to the blue rays of the projection lamps.

### Chicago to Have 6 Convention in 1930

Six of the most important national conventions held annually in the United States will be staged in Chicago next year as a result of the promotional activities of the Chicago Association of Commerce.

The gatherings and the number of out-of-town visitors they will probably attract to Chicago, the estimated attendance being based conservatively on their past records, follow: Music Supervisors' National conference, 3,000; Izaak Walton League of America, 1,000; National Association of Purchasing Agents, 1,000; Rotary International, 25,000;

American Society for Steel Treating, 15,000, and American Petroleum Institute, 3,000.

The Association of Commerce announces that in addition to bringing several thousand strangers to Chicago, the six meetings, with their average duration lasting three days, will mean more than \$2,000,000 in added business to the city.

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