

## Centennial Celebration Plans.

CHICAGO in its coming centennial celebration will have the rare opportunity to demonstrate to the world just what a strictly Chicago fête is. Time and again in the years past the city has been a full and active partner in certain memorable affairs of the kind, but it has not been more than that; the national government or some great national organization of one kind or another has been associated with it, leaving to Chicago the carrying out of a design that has not been her own.

But a Chicago centennial celebration, designed by Chicago and carried out by Chicago in memory of Chicago's birth and achievements, is something which must suffer by comparisons. Compared with the Chicago of every day when it is stripped of pageantry, the program of a week, carried out in all the brilliancy of its conception, must pale in the light of judgment. But without this seeming anomaly there would have been neither call nor excuse for the demonstration.

Without a Fort Dearborn there might have been no Chicago, but without a Chicago of the present day capable of receiving 500,000 visitors from the outside, the jubilee would be commonplace. Without a Union stockyards, one of the most eventful and instructive days on the program would have had to be dropped. Without a city big enough for one of the greatest fires of history, the mimic conflagration set for one of the evenings of the entertainment would have been far fetched and redundant.

### Too Great to Typify.

Turning a river back upon itself and cutting another river through rocky hills for the carrying away of a current that nature had denied as far back as the time of the mastodon and the chaos of the glacial period is something greater than a city of 2,000,000 people could typify in a week. Floating buildings of twenty stories in the mud and morass of the soggy site of Fort Dearborn, and thus making way for the "steel construction" which has revolutionized modern buildings and building methods of the world, is a Chicago accomplishment beyond all comparison with an age limit of only 100 years.

In fact, so immeasurably smaller is the possibility of a centennial celebration of all that Chicago is today, that Chicago came as near not having a centennial as did anybody or anything that ever rounded out a century of animate or inanimate existence. Had it not been for the suggestion of a Chicago newspaper reporter as to a time of which he could have had no possible remembrance, it is possible that even Fernando Jones might have sat back and allowed the day to pass without a thought other than that of its marking a twenty-four hour period close to the autumnal equinox.

### Week of Observances.

When a man has come to the age of 100 years and continues in the possession of his faculties, his thoughts are with the past. Chicago at 100 years old is such a lusty young giant and so full of its own material present day and progress that it might have been excused for forgetting the anniversary altogether. As it is, the city will leave just another mark upon the pages of its history, and for itself and for its friends within a radius of a thousand miles or more it is preparing to leave the memory of a week of striking anniversary observances, beginning on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Left to itself in all that it has done and is doing, the visitor to the city and the citizen within its gates will be expected to look to the anniversary program and its fulfillment as being the ideas and work of Chicago.

Statistically, figures, while being unable to lie, are at least deceptive; for measured by a per capita measurement the city will donate just 5 cents a head to the entertainments of the week. Five cents apiece for every one of the 2,000,000 population of the city represents the \$100,000 which will be spent in the pleasures and pageantries of the centennial. As almost any one will admit, the expenditure of \$100,000 upon a program of pleasure, nearly all of which will be out of doors and without cost or restriction as to spectators, is a sum tidy enough to tempt pleasure seekers to the city at round trip rates of one fare; that such a sum might be raised by an assessment of only 5 cents a head on all residents is only another additional attraction akin to the fabled powers of the good fairy in fairyland.

### Banquet to the Mayors.

In the expenditure of this fund, which is steadily growing, there will be the widest possibilities to the greatest numbers in the fact that there will be only one of the week's features within doors—this in the banquet to be given on the ballroom floor of the Auditorium theater on the evening of Oct. 1. To this invitations have been issued to mayors of the principal cities of the country, and when speechmaking begins the public will be admitted to the galleries of the great house to listen to the one theme, "Chicago."

When on Wednesday, for instance, the Union stockyards

are opened on one of the busiest of working days in one of the greatest hives of industry under the sun, the companies there represented will have declared open house to all visitors in all departments of packing, and in the perfection of a system of guiding and transporting and entertaining visitors on that day, they will have made possible the receiving of 300,000 persons, within nine hours.

One of the chief novelties of this entertainment will be the fact that it is the first attempt of the stockyards of Chicago to act as a host to the general public. However the city may have advanced along ethical lines and however art may have been nurtured and developed in these riper years of its existence, the stockyards still is the great industrial show sight of the city; the visitor, however cultured himself, will not have it otherwise. On this day, then, to see a place dedicated to the shambles take on the dress of a holiday and all the colors of the rainbow midway, with its music and booths and bands and guides and diversions, the visitor should be able to see in the demonstration how much more is in the stockyards than is its accredited single virtue of making the last toenail of the slaughtered beast serve the highest ends of economy and profit.

The packer will have his chance. That he will fail to distinguish himself on the occasion has no part even between the lines of the printed program.

### Fine Open Air Features.

Ordinarily the autumn season in Chicago is its season of seasons. As to what it may be in this year of jumbled temperatures and precipitations the local weather bureau distinctly has refused to guess. But in looking over the program of the centennial observance, one is struck at once with the open air features designed to furnish the greatest entertainment to the greatest number and with the least possibility of congestions and inconvenience. This naturally calls for seasonable weather, for which all Chicago will bow, literally or figuratively, in supplication and confidence.

Entertainment has been the object of the open air features, regardless of anything else. In a series of lectures illustrated by stereopticon views of early and modern Chicago, the pupils of the public schools will have the benefit of the observations of Prof. E. E. Sparks of the University of Chicago—a feature that will be distinctly educational. Within school hours the pupils will be given this course, and in the evenings the lectures will be repeated in the schoolhouses of the city for the benefit of the adult residents and visitors in the school districts. In the foreign quarters these lectures will be interpreted in the evenings, for the benefit of those who do not understand English.

On the side of dignity for the celebration, the banquet in the Auditorium the evening of Oct. 1 should set its stamp. Notable guests of the celebration, together with the especially invited mayors of the cities, will lend their presence there, and when the banqueting is done, the speeches will be for the benefit of all those pleased to hear of Chicago's greatness as recognized by those who are without her gates.

### Some of the Firsts.

Historically it is proposed that the celebration may leave a lasting imprint upon the present material city, through the medium of a series of tablets designed by the sculptor, Max Mausch, and which shall be placed in position and dedicated on the opening evening of the celebration. There are eight of these tablets and for the present occasion they will be executed in plaster, in the hope that later they may be replaced in bronze. The city's fire department, the first railroad depot and the first locomotive to go out of it; La Salle, Marquette, the old wigwam, the first and second Forts Dearborn, the first and second Cook county courthouses, and a view of the original river emptying into the lake are the subjects treated. These tablets are to have central places in Chicago, and through the celebration they will be lighted at night.

One of the Chicago features of the centennial at this period of its incubation is the statement that nothing in a similar line in Chicago since the world's fair has been so widely advertised. In hundreds of the mercantile houses through the city the stationery of these firms has carried the stamp of the centennial. Hotels and banking houses have issued matter having a bearing upon the celebration and marking the progress of industries, institutions, populations, and the like things. The railroads through folders and pamphlets, no less than through the granting of special rates, have brought the occasion to the front of attention, while the newspapers of the country have made the country resident even better informed of the growth of the preparations than is the resident of Chicago itself.

But while the visitor is intent upon the amusement portions of the program, it is the hope of even the centennial committee that he will not overlook a jot or tittle of the present material Chicago. To be 100 years old in itself is a novelty as yet in American cities, but in the physical growth of Chicago it will not be forgotten that as late as 1860 the present city of 2,000,000 inhabitants had only 109,263 inhabitants as shown by the federal census of that year. With its 2,000,000 inhabitants today, the city is without a competitor in growth in the world.