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Machinery-Hall Day, August 26, 1893

at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago.

This was the first of a series of special days given in the various department buildings, under the auspices of the American Exhibitors' Association.



MACHINERY HALL.

Size, 846 by 492 feet. Floor area, 17½ acres. Annex, 550 by 490 feet. Floor area of Annex, 6 acres.
Cost, \$1,200,000.

A unique program was laid out for every hour of the day; each exhibitor made his section as attractive as possible, every wheel was set in motion, and the whole building vibrated with the rumble of machinery. The decorations were on the most lavish scale, and showed many original and striking ideas. Big wheels flew around carrying flags with them, and the emblems of the various nations floated above the steam



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and vapor arising from the operation of thousands of engines. Music came from all parts of the building. Up in the tower the mellow bells chimed out familiar melodies; half a dozen bands played their loudest and jolliest music; the Jubilee Singers, sang plantation tunes, and the steam chime whistles were blown by the pressure of an electric button in the Naval Observatory at Washington. The long-distance telephone, the telegraph, and the phonograph were pressed into service. Congratulatory messages were received from New York and other places by these various means, then reproduced on the phonograph, set up by lino-type machines, printed on type cast before their eyes, and distributed as souvenirs to the tens of thousands that thronged the building. In sixty three minutes by the clock an entire newspaper was turned out, the paper itself being made from wood pulp within that time by a machine in the building.

One of the pumping engines poured out a stream of lemonade, of which every visitor was invited to take a glass. Many exhibitors gave away souvenirs, and thousands of people carried off pretty brushes, tiny bricks, miniature band saws, silk badges, etc. The visitors that day also saw raw sugar turned into the finest candies; they looked at great looms weaving silk, cotton, and wool, from the finest and most delicate ribbons to rough rugs; and they saw boards turned into writing paper, pig iron into horseshoe nails, and clay into bricks. The sewing woman saw a machine that made ten thousand buttonholes in sixty minutes, while the carpenter gazed at another that bored twelve thousand square holes in the same time; and the maid of all work was surprised at the sight of a machine that washed and wiped dishes without breaking the most delicate china. Outside of the building, pine logs were turned into shingles in the twinkling of an eye and a big testing machine crushed timber and iron into atoms. Many turned from this impressive display of power to the aquatic attractions in the afternoon on the lagoon in front of the building. First, there was an exhibit of the use of the electric light and telephone in submarine work, by Captain D. Mertvago, of the Imperial Russian Navy. Then followed the farcical part of the day's program, including a water battle between two crews of men stationed on floats in the lagoon—a battle of the Royal Horse Marines—and similar amusements. In the evening the building was brilliantly illuminated for a promenade concert, reception, and ball.