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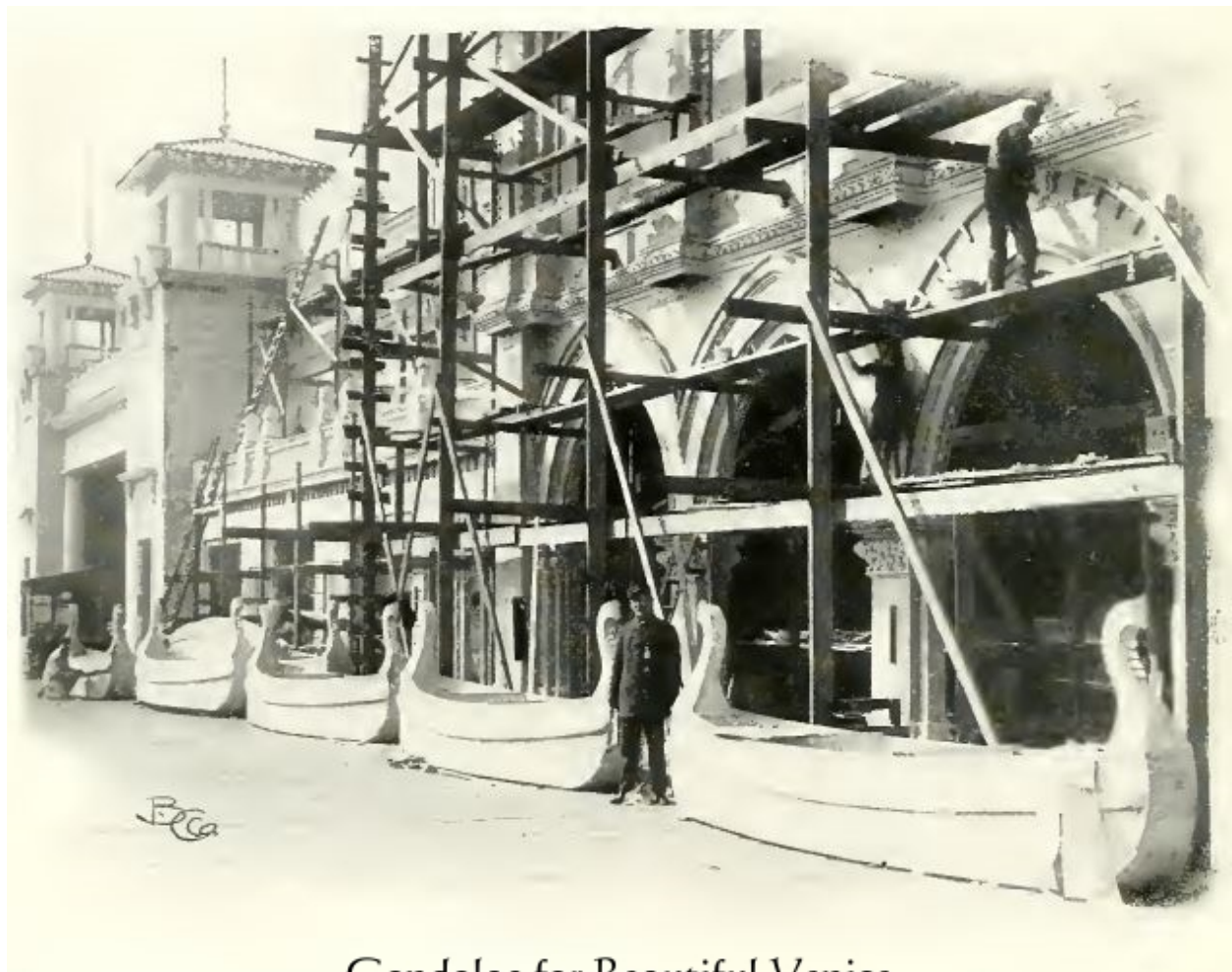
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BOATS AND GONDOLAS for WHITE CITY

GRACEFUL WATER CRAFT BUILT IN CHICAGO FROM MODELS

White City Amusement Park, 63rd Street and South Parkway, Chicago, IL (1905)

People living in the vicinity of the ship yard of J. B. Bates & Co., 240 West 22nd Street, found much food for contemplation and discussion in the watching of the building of the score of gondolas which will be seen floating alone the canals of Beautiful Venice at White City.



Gondolas for Beautiful Venice



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These strange looking crafts excited much comment on the part of the neighbors and they could not imagine what they were intended for, even after referring to their supreme authority, an old lake captain, long since retired.

"I 'low they must be for cruisin' among icebergs," he finally said, after a critical inspection. "But crack my binnacle if I see how they be a goin' ter sail 'em. Yes, them's fur cruisin' in the ice, that's why they're so strong."

In truth they are strongly built and perfectly safe, so that those who desire to take a cruise along the canals of Beautiful Venice will feel assured that they will return in safety to the home port. They have been carefully built after models secured from Venice and are exactly the same as the originals, except that they are not so long and are more strongly constructed. Each will accommodate 10 persons.

Several of these gondolas are now to be seen on the board walk in front of Beautiful Venice and on Sunday afternoons, when visitors are admitted to the Park, they excite much attention. The displacement of each gondola is about one ton; 10,000 feet of Cyprus and oak has so far been used in making the gondolas and 644 steel braces used to strengthen them and to support the seats. The cushioned seats and high backs will make them very comfortable. The figure-heads are patterned after the regulation gondolas in Venice and are works of art.

These boats are 17 feet in length, 4 ft. 2 in. wide and 2 ft. 6 in. in depth.

The boats for the Chutes have also been built by the above named firm and over 6,000 feet of the best grades of oak, poplar and white pine were used in their construction.



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Some of this material has cost as high as \$78 per thousand feet (\$2,024.00 today). Over 15,000 screws were used in putting the boats together and 400 feet of double strength piping was used in making the hand rails. The Chutes boats are 15 1/2 feet long, 4 ft. 8 in. wide and 2 feet in depth.

In connection with the above described work, J. B. Bates & Co. supplied White City with 256 flag poles from 20 feet to 40 feet in height. The flag staffs are of Washington fir and Georgia pine.