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The World's Fair and Men of Sci-
ence

THE WEEK'S PROGRESS in the preparation for the world's fair in
this city in 1892 shows mainly, as is to be expected, in the recom-
mandation, by various commercial and industrial bodies, of persons
whom they wish to represent them on the committee of one hun-
dred which the mayor proposes to appoint. So far, no action has
been taken by scientific men toward giving suggestions as to the fea-
tures of the exposition in which they would care to take part; and,
while naturally scientific interests are not as keen as those which
give the main impulse to the undertaking, it is desirable that the
scientific men of the country should be heard from; and we cordi-
ally invite a free discussion in the columns of Science of the ways
by which the interests of American scientific men may be served
best by the exhibition. An accompaniment of every exhibition is
a series of scientific congresses. To be sure, such congresses to
the number of nearly a hundred will have been held in Paris before
the close of the summer; but all questions will not be settled by
them, and by the summer of 1892 the scientific men of the world
will be ready for further debate.

At the present stage of affairs the discussion of the site is going
vigorously. Governor's Island finding a good many advocates.
When there was talk of a world's fair eleven years ago, the witty
editor of the then flourishing Appleton's Journal, Mr. O. B. Bunce,
urged Governor's Island as a site in the following terms: "This
island is one of the general government military centres, but we

may assume that Congress or the executive, wherever the power lies,
would promptly surrender it for the purpose proposed. The situa-
tion is superb. It is nearly at the junction of the Hudson and East
Rivers, less than a mile from the Battery, and is equidistant from
Brooklyn and New York. It lies directly upon the channel which
leads to the sea; is fanned by breezes from the ocean and rivers;
is healthful, salubrious, and every way charming. Ships from
abroad could land their cargoes for the exhibition at the doors of
the structures without a foot of land-carriage. Boats down the
Hudson, boats from the East through the Sound, steamers from
Southern ports, and lighters from the great railroad-depots at Jer-
sy City, could do the same. A ferry would have to be established
at the Battery, where are the termini of the elevated railways,
which reach through the city to its uppermost limits, thus giving
easy and convenient access from every point; while with ferry-
boats in addition at points along each river, at Brooklyn, and at
Jersey City, the great crowd of visitors could be gathered and dis-
persed with so little friction and so much comfort as to make this
world's fair memorable compared with all others. Those who
recollect the fatigue and torment of getting to and from the Phila-
delphia exhibition must welcome this feature of the prospect with
delight; and in all of the exhibitions, so far, the journeyings to
and fro have been fatiguing and tedious to a degree almost to over-
weigh the pleasure derived from the wonders on display. Gov-
ernor's Island is between sixty and seventy acres in extent, and, as,
and the area of the Philadelphia buildings is over fifty acres, the
place may at first thought seem too small. This difficulty can be met
by having galleries in the buildings, as was the case in the first
Crystal Palace, and by erecting some of the structures over the beach
supported by piles. Superb façades could be constructed at the
water's edge, facing the harbor and the city, presenting a grand
picture to the approaching visitors."

In a recent communication to the Evening Post, Mr. Bunce
states that the island is a mile and a quarter in circumference, its
shape being elliptical. A building encircling the island at the
water's edge (which might rest partly on sea-walls) would be
of greater length than the united length of the buildings at the
Centennial Exhibition, the dimensions of which were as follows:
main buildings, 1,576 feet; machinery halls, 1,402 feet; art gallery,
365 feet; horticultural hall, 383 feet; agricultural hall, 320 feet;
making a total of 4,846 feet, with an average width of about 350
feet. A structure encircling the island 400 feet in width would
exceed the capacity of the Philadelphia structures fully fifty per
cent, and leave the greater part of the island free for the erection
of special buildings by the States or otherwise. Whether the form
of building here suggested would be adopted is not yet to be de-
cided, but the figures show that there is considerable room on the
island, and engineers might be depended on for a few annexed
strips out over the water if need should be. The exhibition is to
be held, unless all signs fail; it is to be held in New York as the
great commercial centre, made so by its being the most accessible
city in the United States; and we now urge on scientific men to
take such action as will give due prominence to what they are
doing for the world's advancement.

THE WHAT AND WHY OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERI-
MENT STATIONS.

PROFESSOR W. O. ATEWATER, director of the Office of Experi-
ment Stations, of the United States Department of Agriculture,
has issued Farmers' Bulletin No. 1 of that office, containing a brief
statement of the history, work, and aims of the agricultural exper-
iment stations.

This bulletin is intended as the first of a series the object of
which is to give information about the experiment stations and
their work by collating results bearing upon special topics, and
putting them into brief, clear, practical form for farmers and others

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Editor's Summary

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