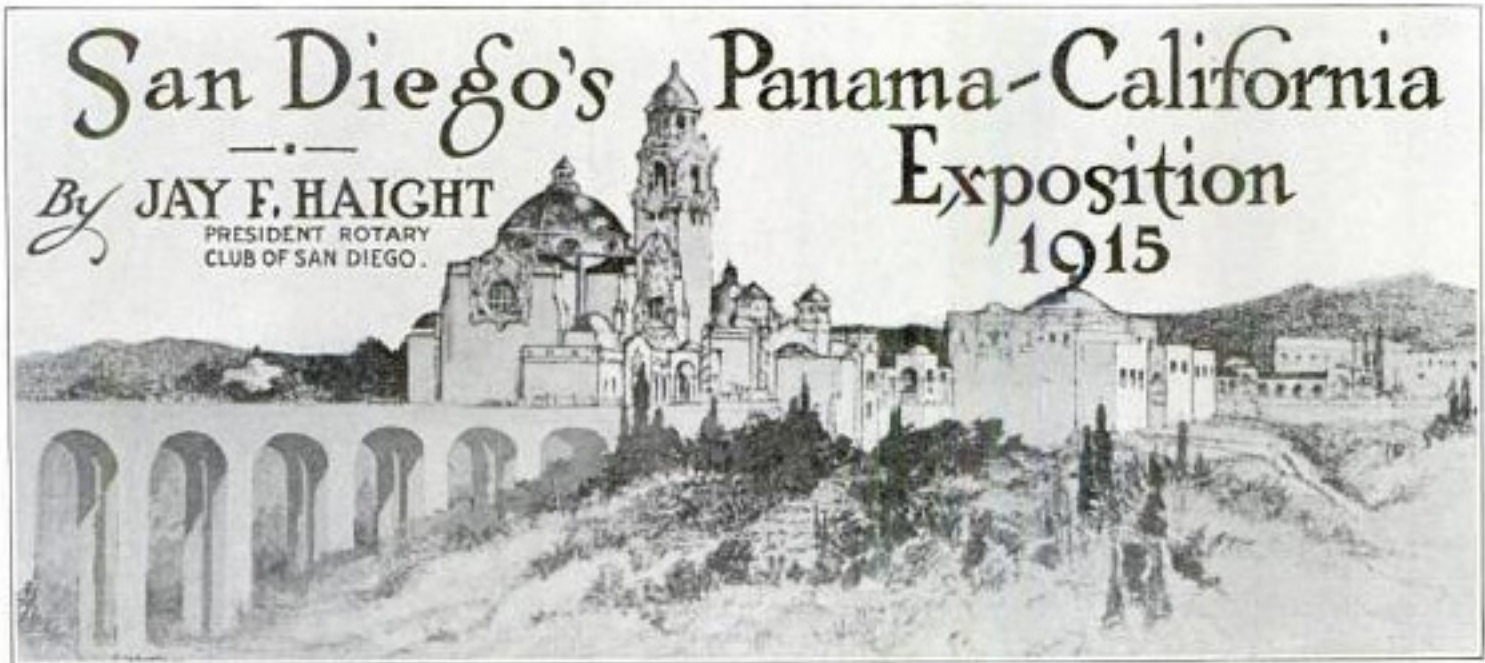




SAN DIEGO is proud of many things, some of which are her climate, her fine natural harbor, and her ninety thousand inhabitants of high intelligence, but perhaps the thing she is most proud of, just at this particular moment, is her exposition project, which will cost her something like four millions of dollars, and which is now nearly half complete but thoroughly financed to a finish.

Let me say, at the beginning, that the president, and leading spirit of the San Diego exposition is a Rotarian, and a member of the Rotary Club of San Diego, and also let me say that the tabulated statement published in the August number of *THE ROTARIAN*, wherein the population of San Diego was given as 39,578 inhabitants, was somewhat misleading. Those were the figures given by the 1910 census. Every basis for estimation, such as postoffice receipts, registration of voters, school attendance, names in the city directory, water consumption (to say nothing of other beverages), shows that San Diego now has a population of at least eighty-five thousand. The exposition project has done the work.

The Panama-California Exposition in San Diego, in commemoration of the opening of the Panama Canal and now in process of preparation, was conceived in 1909. It met with instant favor, and ever since that moment the entire city has labored continuously at the gigantic task of preparing for a great fair of this character.

San Diego at the very start made one great improvement over previous expositions. Heretofore the grounds and buildings of many great fairs have been, for the most part, useless after the close of the fairs. This will not be true in the case of the Panama-

California Exposition. Balboa Park, the big fourteen-hundred acre tract selected for the exposition, is to be made a permanent playground and show-place for the city.

The work now going on serves the double purpose of providing site and structures for the exposition and a permanent park for San Diego. The grounds have been laid out with this purpose in view, and the buildings are of enduring material and construction—so designed that they can be utilized later as museums, art galleries and auditoriums. The city deserves congratulations for its foresight in so carefully laying its plans in this way.

Balboa Park is only ten minutes distance from San Diego's business district. It stands three hundred feet above sea level, overlooking the city, Point Loma, San Diego bay, and the Pacific—an ideal site for both fair and park. So commanding is the location that the light on the great dome of the California State building, five hundred feet above water level, will be visible to mariners one hundred miles out at sea. This building, the construction of which is now proceeding, was provided for by an appropriation at the last session of the legislature, the bill for which was the only exposition appropriation act signed by Governor Johnson. The amount appropriated is \$250,000 and it will provide a building second only to the state capitol at Sacramento in imposing beauty of architecture and will be as permanent in character. It will be used for all time to come as a state institution for the dissemination of information on California and her resources, her attractive beauties and her greatness. Of reinforced concrete, it will be a depository for historical material and other objects neces-

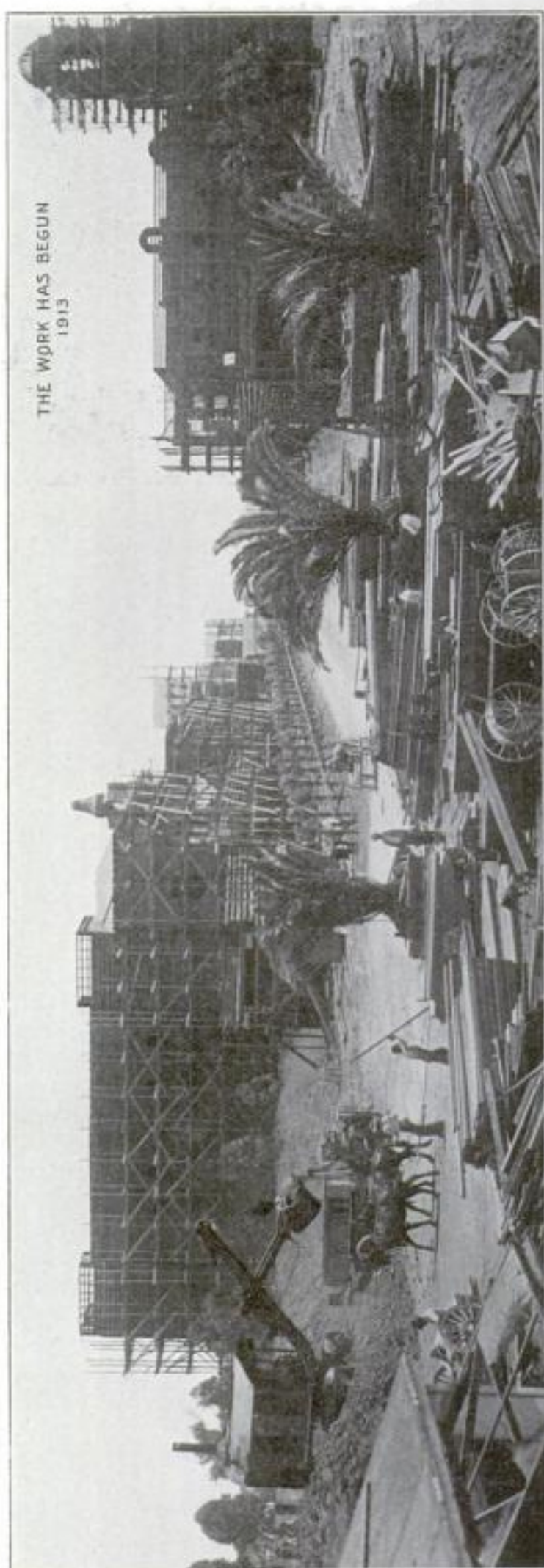
sary to preserve. Designed after the most famous of the Spanish colonial structures of America, it will rise over 200 feet above the foundations. A beautiful dome decorated in the most ornate style with colored tile, will surmount the main portion of the structure. A tower at one corner will further add to the beauty of its proportions, and wings and arcades around it will make of it one of the finest examples of modern architectural art in the country.

The California building, while near the entrance of Balboa Park, to which it is connected by a concrete bridge of seven arches 136 feet high over Cabrillo canyon, will be the central or dominate architectural feature of the exposition. It will be surrounded by smaller buildings in the same style, all devoted to exposition purposes. The first one of the main exposition buildings, facing on the Prado, was begun in June, 1913, and six of these huge structures are well along toward completion. The administration and service building, and the hospital were completed in 1912 and occupied during this year.

Construction methods are such that the buildings rise very rapidly, and it is the purpose of the management to have all completed by August, 1914.

Other buildings now under way are several large exhibit buildings being built for concessionaries and exhibitors, and still others to be started during the latter part of 1913 are state buildings, seven of which are to be completed before the middle of 1914.

One of the most extensive horticultural sections ever put in operation in this country is that of the exposition nursery. Literally millions of plants have been propagated in this nursery which covers 35 acres of propagation beds alone and over 100 acres of growing beds. In 1911 this nursery was started, and there are now over 7,000,000 plants of all descriptions on the books of the department. The world has been ransacked for a specimen of every known plant, every tree and vine that can by any possible use be of benefit to mankind, and many that cannot be of use. Planting of these trees around the streets and avenues of the exposition is an enormous task. It has been necessary in hundreds of cases to install the heaviest machinery in order to move these trees. Over 3000 palms have been transplanted, some of them weighing as high as 70 tons with the earth around their roots, presenting a problem in transportation that has been met with the heaviest kind of road engines and with great cranes



THE WORK HAS BEGUN
1913

and tackle equipment capable of handling immense weights.

Other trees to the number of many hundred thousand have been planted in different parts of the grounds and when this work is completed some time next spring, the entire area devoted to the exposition will contain a horticultural exhibit of a variety and extent never seen at any exposition ever held in the world. On account of the fact that the climate is so favorable, these plants grow the year round here, so that by the time the exposition opens its doors in 1915, it will be a bower of horticultural beauty.

The most extensive piece of planting for exhibit purposes is that of the counties of Southern California. In one section of the exhibit are 700 of the finest two-year-old citrus trees that could be gathered in the whole of southern California, where the orange reaches its highest development. It is no exaggeration to say that these 700 orange trees are the finest in the world today. Adjoining these trees is a deciduous grove, and adjoining this again are gardens and berry vines, the whole making a complete typical exhibit of the economic trees of the territory in which the exposition is located.

Other exhibitors are doing the same work in greater or less degree, and the whole effort will combine to form the greatest exhibit of irrigation and intensive farming ever brought together.

In addition to the horticultural features found around various buildings and the grounds, is the horticultural building itself, a huge glass and lath house that will contain the valuable specimens. This house will be built in such a manner that it will be a gathering place where band concerts may be given if desired, and the wealth and beauty of the flower world may be admired at all times. This house will be something like 600 feet square, and work on it will start some time in the latter part of 1913, to be completed next spring.

Surrounding the entire exposition grounds is the most sightly "fence" ever calculated to keep fair grounds under control. At every exposition heretofore it has been necessary to build a high board fence as unsightly as it was obstructive, but here such a fence is not necessary and in fact would be out of place. The enclosure here is open, that is to say, it is a wire fence 8 feet high and about 4 miles in circumference. Planted between and around the supporting posts are thousands of fast-growing and flowering vines, which,

by the time the exposition opens, will completely hide the wire fence itself and form a border for the grounds as beautiful as it will be effective.

Situated as it is on a high and sightly plain surrounded and intersected by deep ravines, or canyons, the grounds are being decorated with lagoons where water views are necessary to the completion of the landscape pictures. In the canyon beneath the great Cabrillo bridge has been built a dam that will impound a lagoon of sufficient size to create a landscape effect of much beauty. On the opposite side of the grounds is being arranged another deeper and much more extensive lagoon that winds its sinuous way from the southern end of the grounds to the very center, ending at a bulkhead on the Prado opposite the agricultural building.

One of the most notable and elaborate features of San Diego's world's fair will be the anthropological exhibit. Somewhat similiar to Buffalo Bill's congress of the rough riders of the world but with a greater appeal for the highbrows, this exhibit will attract students and learned men from all parts of this country and Europe, not for casual sight-seeing but for earnest study.

The anthropological display is the pet project of the directors of the Panama-California Exposition and no money or effort will be spared to make this exhibit the greatest one of its kind ever held. In the summer of 1912, Frederick A. Starr, professor of anthropology of the University of Chicago, and the foremost teacher of that science in this country, went to Africa as a special envoy of the San Diego fair. He first visited Liberia, where he obtained a promise from the government to exhibit at San Diego in 1915, and then plunged into the interior of Africa where he interviewed savage chieftains and offered to chaperon them on a trip to California three years hence.

Professor Starr's identity with the anthropological exhibit at the Panama-California Exposition is a guarantee of its success. He was directly responsible for the Ainu colony at the St. Louis fair in 1904 when the original residents of Japan attracted thousands of students. Professor Starr is now in the land of the Mikado and, remembering his discovery of the red-headed Indians in Mexico, it is logical to expect that he will have a surprising and gratifying report to make to the directors of the San Diego fair upon his return to the United States in December.