

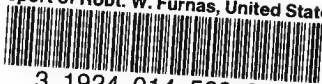
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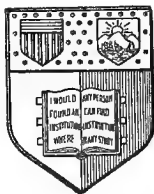
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Report of Robt. W. Furnas, United States



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# REPORT

OF

ROBT. W. FURNAS,

UNITED STATES

COMMISSIONER FOR NEBRASKA,

AT THE

WORLD'S INDUSTRIAL AND COTTON CENTENNIAL,

NEW ORLEANS.

---

"JUST 18."

WRITTEN BY A NEW ORLEANS LADY IN THE STATE REGISTER,  
AFTER VIEWING THE NEBRASKA EXHIBIT.

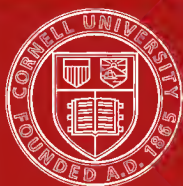
Fair Atalanta of the Western States!  
Thy nimble feet outstrip the rising morn:  
Hippomenes to-day no longer waits,—  
Who tempts thee now, must offer golden corn.

*N. O., Sunday, April 26, 1885.*

S. B. E.

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LINCOLN, NEB:  
JOURNAL CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
1885.



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# COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

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*To His Excellency, Hon. James W. Dawes, Governor of Nebraska:*

SIR—By virtue of an act of congress, and on your recommendation, I was honored with the following commission from the President of the United States :

CHESTER A. ARTHUR,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*To all who shall see these presents, Greeting: Know ye, That, reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity and ability of Robert W. Furnas, and upon the recommendation of the Governor of the state of Nebraska, I do appoint the said Robert W. Furnas to be a Commissioner to represent the said state, under the act of congress entitled "An act to encourage the holding of a World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-four," approved February 10, 1883, and subject to the provisions thereof.*

In testimony whereof, I have caused these letters to be made patent, and the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.



Done at the City of Washington, this 5th day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 108th.

By the President :

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

FRED. T. FRELINGHUYSEN,

*Secretary of State.*

After executing the prescribed oath of office, I at once entered upon the work assigned, and to the best of my ability, aided by your counsel and advice, discharged the duties involved, and herewith submit an account of my stewardship.

## THE EXPOSITION FUND.

A statement of my work, together with vouchers for expenditures to date, January 1st, 1885, amounting to \$6,618.49, were presented to the legislative assembly, when last in session. At my request, a special committee was

appointed by that body to examine and audit the accounts, which was done and the report approved by the legislature, as will be seen by printed Journal. I now hand you for examination a detailed itemized account of continued receipts and expenditures from that date to close of Exposition, return and final disposition of material composing the state exhibit.

On assuming duties of the Commission, as you are aware, no funds were at command for collecting and making a State Exhibit at New Orleans. In May, 1884, on the invitation of Director General Burke, I met him, with commissioners from other states and territories, at the city of Washington, for the purpose of consultation, and to devise means by which a general representation of all parts of the United States might be secured in presenting a grand National Exhibit. During the session of the Commissioners, congress passed an act loaning the Exposition one million dollars. From this fund the management decided and arranged to donate the sum of \$5,000 to each state and territory making a collective exhibit. Returning to Nebraska, and after consultation with yourself and others, a \$5,000 loan was obtained, depending on future legislation for re-imbusement. While the State Commissioners were in session at Washington, it was universally agreed among them that in place of each state erecting distinct head-quarter buildings, the Exposition management should construct annex head-quarter accommodations, adjoining respective state exhibits, and that \$1,000 of the \$5,000 donated, should be reserved for this purpose. Thus Nebraska had the sum of \$9,000 with which to commence collecting and making an exhibit.

With this sum at command, aided by generous citizens from all parts of the state, I made and installed a collective state exhibit at the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition, New Orleans, La., commencing December 16, 1884, and to close May 31, 1885. While this exhibit was such as attracted universal attention, and obtained honorable mention from all sources, it was not, in my estimation, complete. It was not what we should and could present on so important an occasion. In January I came home. The legislature being then in session, the matter was presented that body for consideration. Appreciating the opportunity of presenting the state's resources to the world, an act was passed appropriating the sum of \$15,000, with which to enlarge and otherwise improve our exhibit.

Five thousand dollars of this appropriation, with so much additional as was required to pay the loan, with interest, was used first for that purpose. With the remainder I returned to New Orleans and proceeded to enlarge and more extensively elaborate the exhibit. Head-quarters was extended; new, artistic display made; a commodious reading room arranged, where files of nearly all papers in the state were kept; mail facilities and accommodation prepared—in short a "home" of comfort and convenience was provided for the many Nebraskans who visited the Exposition, as well as for the thousand



inquiring strangers who thronged our quarters, seeking information as to the far West. We enjoyed the reputation of having the most extensive and convenient accommodations of the kind on the grounds.

In the use of funds intrusted me, I aimed to present the state I had the honor to represent, to the very best possible advantage with the least possible expenditure. It was universally conceded that no other state exhibit at New Orleans was superior to that of Nebraska. I am quite sure you will find, after an examination of my accounts, no money was uselessly expended.

It will be seen by vouchers on file that stipulated compensations were paid John C. Bonnell, Samuel Barnard, S. McConiga, Mrs. S. C. Elliott, James T. Allan, and others employed. These compensations were in no case extravagant; only a fair recompense for services rendered. No compensation or allowance whatever was retained or used by myself above actual living expenses—board and lodging—and that at no time exceeded the sum of \$2.50 per day, during my whole term of service.

There remains in the state treasury unexpended, as shown by my statement, the sum of \$219.35. From this an amount sufficient to pay for printing this report is yet to be deducted.

#### NEBRASKA DAY.

In keeping with the universally observed plan of the Exposition management, the 11th of March, 1885, was designated as "Nebraska Day." It was regretted uncontrollable circumstances prevented the attendance of the governor and other state officials. Hon. Allen W. Field, speaker of the Nebraska House of Representatives, together with a goodly number of members of the Legislature, however, honored the occasion with their presence, and participated in the ceremonies of the day. The exercises consisted of an oration by Hon. John M. Thurston, musical entertainment by the celebrated Mexican Typical orchestra, refreshments, extending hospitalities and courtesies, distribution of state souvenirs, and general social intercourse. Mr. Thurston did himself and the state honor, both in his oratorical effort and in presentation of state statistics.

Prof. Chas. E. Bessey, Dean of the Nebraska Agricultural and Industrial College of the State University, was present on my invitation, and in an able address presented the educational and agricultural advantages of the state, with telling effect.

"Nebraska Day" exercises, entertainments, and attendance, were regarded by all, to say the least, as one of the best of the Exposition. The *Times-Democrat*, the leading New Orleans daily, referring to "Nebraska Day," said:

"The Nebraska reception was pronounced by all who were so fortunate as to be present last Wednesday, at the government building of the Expositi-

tion, to be the most elegant and *recherche* affair of the kind that has been attempted by any of the states represented, and every way in keeping with the beautiful exhibit that has excited unbounded admiration of all beholders, for the exquisite taste displayed in the decoration and beautiful designs executed with such artistic taste in the grains and grasses of this state.

“Well may the representatives of Nebraska be proud of not only their state, but the successful management of this gala day reception. Nebraska’s head-quarters are as handsome as a lady’s boudoir, and the walls are decorated with bright colored wall-paper, with a fringe made of red and yellow corn. It is a matter of continued astonishment how anything so homely in itself, say the corn cob and grains of corn, can so deftly be made to serve the purpose of beautifying wall panels and posts. A platform had been erected, upon which were seated a large number of invited guests. A table upon which stood large vases of flowers occupied the centre. In a large space in front of the platform were placed chairs and benches, on which, long before the appointed hour for the opening of the ceremonies, an immense crowd gathered to listen to the eloquent words of the orator of the occasion, the Hon. J. M. Thurston. Just back of the audience sat the Mexican Typical orchestra which discoursed at intervals such sweet music—there were exclamations of delight heard from both men and women. Just think of the number of good things that were served to refresh the inner man. Such as ice cream, delicious cake made from Nebraska flour, sparkling cider made from the apples that grow in the state, and besides all this there were souvenirs for the ladies, in the shape of exquisite boutonnières made of fresh and natural flowers, Japanese napkins, small bags of corn, etc., etc.

“The following musical programme under the directions of Prof. Carlos Curti was observed :

#### PART I.

Overture—“Pique Dame” .....	Suppe.
Mazurka—“Remembrance of Youth” .....	Curti.
“La Pluie d’Or” .....	Waldteufel.
Violin Solo, played by .....	Senor A. Figueroa,
Xylophone Solo, by .....	Director Curti.

#### PART II.

Overture to William Tell .....	Rossini.
Serenade .....	Schubert.
Mexican Danza .....	.....

“At the conclusion of the exercises Mr. Thurston, in behalf of Gov. Dawes, formally presented the Nebraska state exhibit to the Exposition management. Commissioner General Morehead, in behalf of the management, ac-

cepted the exhibit, and said: He felt deeply the honor of receiving the exhibit of Nebraska, but with the exhaustive address of Mr. Thurston, an address worthy of the great exhibit itself, he thought it sufficient to say no more than to return thanks for the great exhibit which speaks for itself, and which adds so much to the value of the attractions of the government building. He thought it also due to say that the especial credit is due Nebraska, and the opportunity for him to say so was a fitting one because at no time had Nebraska hesitated to come forward in doing everything in its power to make the exposition a success. He also thought it proper to return well merited thanks to Gov. Furnas, whose efforts in behalf of Nebraska deserved more than a passing notice, as too much cannot be said of the manner in which he has sustained the honor and dignity of the state which he represents. In conclusion he could but say that the board of management felt it greatly honored itself in being able to receive the great exhibit that Nebraska has sent as her share in the World's Exposition."

#### THE WORK.

To attempt individualizing all in the state, or elsewhere, who aided in so many ways to present at New Orleans an exhibit which proved the wonder and admiration of all who saw, would be simply an act of supererogation. In all, fifteen car loads of material were shipped. All railroads in Nebraska, in exercise of characteristic liberality in such matters, aided this enterprise by giving free transportation in rendezvousing material at Lincoln. Then, by continued liberality on the part of the Burlington & Missouri River in Nebraska, Missouri Pacific, Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf, Memphis & Tennessee, and Illinois Central railroad companies, our whole exhibit was transported from Lincoln to New Orleans free of expense. For these generous deeds the Nebraska legislature promptly and appropriately passed a joint resolution of thanks, which I have been assured by the managers of the roads indicated was highly appreciated. That portion of the exhibit brought back to the state was returned over the same routes, free as before. Thus we are under renewed obligations, which through this medium is hereby acknowledged.

I appointed Hon. Samuel Barnard, President Nebraska State Horticultural Society, superintendent of the horticultural department, and Mrs. S. C. Elliott, superintendent of woman's work, investing each with full power and control in installation and management of their respective departments. Not being able to obtain the services of a competent person to take charge of the educational department, through the kindness of Mrs. Elliott and the additional aid of Prof. Parsons, of Hastings, Prof. Grant, of Peru, and Prof. Points, of Omaha, who were visiting New Orleans, the contributions to this department were installed and placed in charge of Mrs. G. W. Hartzell as custodian.

Contributions to the colored department were turned over to Col. Spellman, the assistant chief, in charge of that department. With his assistance it was installed. E. R. Overall, Esq., of Omaha, had agreed, and was expected to take charge of this exhibit as superintendent, but owing to protracted and fatal illness in his family, was unable to attend in time. This exhibit was a collection highly creditable, and contributed largely to make the very attractive national colored exhibit at New Orleans.

#### THE MANNER AND PLAN OF THE EXHIBIT.

While gratified with general results, I shall ever regret the impossibility, or rather combination of circumstances and conditions of the Exposition management, which prevented the presentation of our state exhibit *en masse*. As it was, we were scattered over nearly the entire grounds. On the floor of the government building was our main exhibit. The educational, woman's work, colored and Indian departments were in different parts of the gallery in same building. The horticultural display was in horticultural hall, a mile or more distant. Our forestry exhibit of eight thousand living trees, planted in open ground, was still farther away. Some exhibits were in the main building, and one on open ground, out-doors, making, as it were, nine different exhibits. If they could have been massed the effect would have been much better; especially could the educational department and woman's work have been more advantageously and creditably presented than as they were.

#### IN MATTER OF AWARDS.

So far as the collective state exhibits were concerned, no effort was made to obtain premiums in the usual manner of making competitive awards, for two principal reasons: *First*. Under regulations of the exposition all collective state and territorial exhibits—in fact, all exhibits in the state and government building—were non-competitive; *Second*. It was understood and agreed before going to New Orleans that the Nebraska exhibit should be massed in one grand collection. It was believed this plan would secure the best possible advantage in obtaining what we most desired—advertising benefits. Results demonstrated the wisdom of this policy. Nebraska received the universal award of the press and country in presenting on “opening day” the best general fruit display, being 1,200 of the 2,200 plates on exhibition—200 more than all other states and territories combined; also, of being the only state installed in place on that day.

During the Exposition the Nebraska exhibit received the award of 1,420 leading newspapers and periodicals, hailing from every state and territory in the Union, as being the best of the Exposition. Illustrations of our exhibits, and highest complimentary editorials and reports were given by such

publications as *Harpers' Weekly*, *Frank Leslie*, *Daily Graphic*, *Chicago Times*, *New Orleans Times-Democrat*, and *Daily Illustrated Exposition Journal*.

Except in horticultural hall, all awards of premiums at this Exposition were made to individual exhibits—the greater proportion on merit alone, and not on competition.

None of the money premiums awarded, so far as I am able to learn, have ever been paid. In response to inquiries relating to payment of premiums, made by Commissioners for the states, the Assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury replied: "Although the sum in excess of the appropriation may ultimately be reduced by the rejection of claims in whole or part, it would seem hardly probable that any of the claims for premiums awarded by the Exposition can be entertained or paid."

In every instance in which individuals from Nebraska competed for premiums, first awards were made. Samuel Barnard and Hiram Craig were awarded premiums on fruit exhibits; Henry Grebe, on hay rake; E. Stephens, on patent bridge; and the Lincoln Tanning Company, on new process of tanning and display of manufactured leather. In the departments of education and woman's work, committees were appointed to examine exhibits and make honorable-mention reports in cases of merit. In these, Nebraska received her full share.

At one time during the Exposition efforts were made by the Commissioners from the various states and territories to have a sweepstake award made for the best collective state exhibit. The Commissioner for Nebraska offered to compete, and give \$1,000 toward making up a fund for this purpose. For various reasons the plan was found impracticable, and abandoned.

Experienced exhibitors have long been losing confidence in, or respect for competitive awards. They are subject to the same "tricks of the trade" as in politics and horse-racing. The unbiased expressions of the press and public opinion are tribunals preferable to "select committees."

#### ADVERTISING.

In matter of advertising the state, in addition to mere presentation of the exhibits, I prepared, had printed, and circulated a 50,000-edition of a 32-page pamphlet, "Nebraska; Her Resources, Advantages, Advancements, and Promises," condensing, as much as possible, essential and desirable information, that it might be the more generally read. One hundred thousand cards containing directory information were printed and circulated. Two thousand copies of Mr. Thurston's "Nebraska day" oration were also printed and distributed. In addition to these, we kept constantly filled six advertising tables, containing matter furnished by the railroads and real estate operators in the state, by the hundreds of thousands. A constant supply of advertising matter was kept on tables in the reading room, put

up in prepaid wrappers for visitors to send their friends. No opportunity or medium to keep the state advantageously before the world was neglected.

#### THE WORK AND RESULTS OF THE EXPOSITION.

All concede the Nebraska exhibit at New Orleans has been productive of the very best results, both general and direct. The resources, advantages, prospects, and promises of the state were never so favorably and forcibly presented to the whole world. The products, congregated as they were, from all parts of the state, were in reality a surprise to our own people, even. To those who before knew nothing of us in person, the grand array of diversified products was wonderful. Thousands of inquiring eyes and minds were at once turned toward a region they had before regarded only as barren and unproductive. Since the close of the Exposition, and during the season following, the large numbers who have been induced to visit our borders found, instead, as rich, fertile acres as sun ever shone upon. Their expectations were more than realized. They came, saw, purchased, located. The direct fruits of our exhibits have been an army of newcomers. Population by the thousands and capital by the millions have been the results. Such a demand for realty all over the state was never before known, as during the current year. The appropriation made by the legislature has already yielded "more than one hundred fold," and the end is not yet.

While briefly noting the individual and direct benefits we as a state have derived from the New Orleans Exposition, more noble and glorious accomplishments were reached through this instrumentality. That the Exposition was a financial failure, goes without saying. Unfortunately, it was located too far from the great centre of population to give it the constant attendance of large numbers necessary to contribute a fund for its support. Such an exhibition, however, was never before installed anywhere. All the states and territories but one—Utah—were in place, with their products and inventions. Nearly all other civilized nations of the earth were there—all vying in friendly ways who could best and most advantageously present themselves. The Exposition was the great educator of the age, and thus the whole world became wiser and better. In this important sense, our people—the people of the United States—received full share in the benefits. Those from the extremes of the country, who before had in reality known but little of each other personally, came together; became better acquainted; knew each other better and more favorably; knew of resources and powers before unknown. "The wounds of the nation" were more effectually healed than could have been done by any other agency or instrumentality.

#### DISPOSITION OF THE EXHIBIT.

Before closing day of the Exposition, a very large proportion of the grains

on exhibition were destroyed by insects peculiar to that climate. During the entire Exposition our exhibits in the main space were badly damaged by rain, in consequence of imperfect roof. Much was donated to other states and territories and individuals from all parts of the world. Corn, particularly, was distributed to all other corn-growing states and regions. We enjoyed the treat, before leaving the Exposition, on the 8th of June, of eating green corn, grown near the city of New Orleans, from seed of Nebraska sweet corn furnished a gardener. Fruit and vegetables were kept in place until decay demanded their removal. What grain remained in condition to sell, not otherwise disposed of, was sold to best advantage, and will be found accounted for in my statement rendered. As per agreement, flour, meal, and canned exhibits were sold, and proceeds returned to contributors, receipts for which will be found on file with statement. The native grasses, wood specimens, stone, stone coal, brick, soil, building sand, fossils, Indian relics, together with grain specimens, were placed to the credit of Nebraska in the cabinets of Tulane University, New Orleans; Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; Mississippi University, Oxford; the Universities of North and South Carolina, Ohio, California, Tennessee, and Smithsonian Institute. A map of each, Nebraska, United States, and Europe, made at the Nebraska State Normal School; photographs of the State Normal and Omaha public schools, a number of maps from the preparatory department of the Normal School, botanical specimens, and six compositions from the same, were presented to the government of France, through her commissioner of education at the Exposition. The jellies, preserved fruits, and other such exhibits in glass, not broken or otherwise destroyed, were presented to the "Faith Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Women," the acknowledgment of which is shown by the following letter from the Rev. S. T. Clanton, secretary :

NEW ORLEANS, May 30, 1885.

*Robt. W. Furnas, U. S. Commissioner for Nebraska:*

DEAR SIR—Through the kindness of Col. James Lewis, your liberal donation of jelly, canned fruits, and syrup was received with gladness. They cheered the aged and friendless inmates; and the gifts so timely and generously given put not only the helpless old ladies under obligation to you, the state you represent, and the ladies' department, but also the board of managers charged with the care and support of the Home, who acknowledge with gratitude the benefit bestowed by you.

We feel grateful to the ladies' department of Nebraska, especially to the honored lady Commissioner, Mrs. Elliott. We earnestly invoke the blessings of a hountiful Providence upon your state, its inhabitants, its natural resources, and upon those things that develop the capabilities of a state and its people.

In the name of the aged inmates, and on behalf of the board of managers of the "Faith Home for the Aged and Infirm," I return sincere thanks to you and to Mrs. Elliott, the lady Commissioner of Nebraska, for your generous contribution of fruit.

Yours truly,

S. T. CLANTON,  
*Cor. Sec'y Board of Home.*

Contributions to the woman's work and educational departments, with exceptions named, were brought home, and, at the expense of funds at my command, returned to their respective owners. Fixtures, furniture, and books belonging to the exhibit were appropriately distributed among state organizations; some to the Home for the Friendless, State Historical Society, State Board of Agriculture, State Horticultural Society, State Library, and Commissioner of Public Buildings.

Contributions of value were obtained from other states, which were brought home and turned over to our State University. Through the efforts of Mrs. S. C. Elliott, a valuable collection of models and casts were purchased from the French educational exhibit for the use of the art department of Nebraska State University. The funds for this purpose I advanced, and after returning home was reimbursed by the University management.

For want of funds, in the matter of adding to the cabinet of our State University, the opportunity of a lifetime was lost. A grand collection could have been made at comparatively small cost.

#### COMPLIMENTS OF THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE.

As the Legislative assembly, in addition to the appropriation, attached sufficient importance to the work of your Commissioner at New Orleans, to warrant special compliments, the following official correspondence is made a portion of this report:

#### SECRETARY ROGGEN'S LETTER.

STATE OF NEBRASKA,  
SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

LINCOLN, NEB., April 30, 1885.

*Hon. Robert W. Furnas, Commissioner from Nebraska, New Orleans Exposition:*

DEAR SIR:—I have the honor, in accordance with the provision of a joint resolution adopted by the legislature of Nebraska and approved March 5, A. D. 1885, to tender to you herewith a copy of the said joint resolution, expressing the most grateful thanks of the senate and the house of representatives of this state for your efforts on behalf of Nebraska at the World's Exposition, and a gold medal commemorative of those services and the occasion that called them out.

Permit me to tender, also, my congratulations to you upon this well



deserved recognition by the representatives of the people, and upon your eminent success in representing our young but great commonwealth at the Exposition at New Orleans. I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD P. ROGGEN,  
*Secretary of State.*

## JOINT RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, Robert W. Furnas, by his untiring energy and efforts on behalf of Nebraska at the World's Cotton Exposition at New Orleans, has made the Nebraska exhibit one which is most creditable to our state, and in which every Nebraskan may well feel proud: and

WHEREAS, The said Robert W. Furnas by said exhibit has directed the attention of the whole country to our fertile soil and vast agricultural resources, which must and will result in building up our state and bringing within its border capital and people:

Therefore, The Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Nebraska, now in session, tender to the said Robert W. Furnas our most grateful thanks for his efforts on behalf of this state, and we hereby request and authorize the secretary of state to procure a suitable gold medal and tender the same with a copy of this resolution to him, and that the secretary of state is hereby authorized to use one hundred dollars of the fifteen thousand dollars appropriated for the New Orleans exhibition heretofore to pay for such medal.

(Signed) H. H. SHEDD,  
*President of the Senate.*

Attest—

(Signed) SHERWOOD BUER,  
*Secretary of Senate.*

(Signed) ALLEN W. FIELD,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

(Signed) JAMES F. ZEDIKER,  
*Chief Clerk of House of Representatives.*

Approved March 5, 1885.

(Signed) JAMES W. DAWES,  
*Governor.*

## THE MEDAL

Is entirely of gold with the exception of one small square of enamel. From a bar at the top and partly cut into the bar hangs a small square bearing the national flag with the words "Nebraska, she is just eighteen years old." A bar with a circular plate at the center hangs by short chains from this. The circle bears the recipient's monogram in gold of different tints. Below this hangs the American eagle with a shield in its talons and attached solidly to this by one point is a six pointed star surrounded by a wreath. In the middle of the star Nebraska's coat of arms is wonderfully

wrought in different colors of gold, and on the different points are designs representing the products of the soil and instruments of toil. On the reverse of the star is the following inscription :

R. W. FURNAS,  
 Commissioner of Nebraska,  
 1884— New Orleans Exposition —1885  
 With the thanks of the Legislature.  
 “*Palmarum qui Meruit Ferat.*”

THE COMMISSIONER'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

THE WORLD'S INDUSTRIAL AND COTTON CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION,  
 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, EXPOSITION GROUNDS,  
 NEW ORLEANS, LA., May 15, 1885.

*Hon. E. P. Roggen, Secretary of State, Lincoln, Neb. :*

DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to hereby acknowledge the receipt of your valued favor of April 30, and in due time since, the medal and engrossed copy of joint resolution passed by the legislative assembly, providing for the testimonial tendered me for services at the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exhibition, New Orleans, La. In reply, I beg, sir, that you convey to the representatives of the people of Nebraska, my most profound thanks for this manifestation of their approval of my efforts in presenting to the world the wonderful resources and advantages of our young state and growing commonwealth. That I have succeeded to their satisfaction and to an extent warranting such evidence as presented, I consider the happiest act of my public life. I fully appreciate these magnificent souvenirs, which will ever be treasured and regarded as a value above reckoning in dollars and cents.

While this testimonial is made me as manager and individual in charge of the work for which it is given, I would be unmindful of duty to others did I fail in recognition and acknowledgment of aid rendered me in this important undertaking.

I was most fortunate in the selection of those called to assist me. The devoted and untiring industry and service of Mrs. S. C. Elliott in the woman's work department, and in placing the educational exhibit, have been of incalculable worth, both to the cause of her sex and in advertising the state. She has been ably assisted by Miss Phoebe L. Elliott. The work of John C. Bonnell, as seen in the artistic and decorative arrangements at the main exhibit, is admitted by all to be unequalled in the whole Exposition. Samuel Barnard, in making the horticultural display, not only sustained but increased our testimonials in this respect. James T. Allan, in charge of correspondence, reading room, and post-office, has been ever faithful, agreeable, and entertaining—interesting strangers and imparting information. S. McConiga was of sterling merit in the transporta-

tion department, and in placing the main exhibit. The clerks in my office, W. H. Fowler and C. H. Blanchard, are not only competent, gentlemenly, efficient, and trustworthy, but always ready and willing to aid in any direction indicated. Harry Hotchkiss, as an artist, was Mr. Bonnell's valuable assistant, as were also C. W. Baker and W. J. Aitkin. D. B. Mills, B. P. Russell, and W. W. Watson, as state exponents in main space, did work of great value. Mrs. G. W. Hartzell, in the educational department, is entitled to thanks.

Thanking you, Mr. Secretary of State, for the elegant and satisfactory manner in which you have prepared these testimonials,

I am, sir, as ever, yours with great respect,

ROBT. W. FURNAS,

*United States Commissioner for Nebraska.*

Desiring that especially Mr. Bonnell and Mrs. Elliott should share with me the more enduring testimonials, at my individual expense, I have designed, made, and presented to each a gold medal, accompanied with the following letters of transmittal:

NEBRASKA HEAD-QUARTERS NEW ORLEANS EXPOSITION,

May 16th, 1885.

*John C. Bonnell, Esq.,*

DEAR SIR:—Feeling that your artistic taste and work at the New Orleans Exposition have contributed so largely to attract attention and popularize the Nebraska exhibit, and that something more lasting and perpetuating than mere "thank words" should be yours, I take pleasure in presenting you as a souvenir, a gold medal, representing your last and best decorative work, known as the "Flag panel." In my opinion, this piece of work has attracted more attention and admiration than any other one object in the Government building.

Thanking you both personally and in behalf of the state for the valuable assistance you have rendered me in presenting our promising young state to the eyes of the world, in a way and manner calling forth universal commendation, I remain as ever,

Yours very truly,

ROBT. W. FURNAS,

*U. S. Com. for Neb.*

NEBRASKA HEAD-QUARTERS NEW ORLEANS EXPOSITION,

May 16th, 1885.

*Mrs. S. C. Elliott,*

DEAR MADAM:—Fully appreciating as I do, and have from the commencement of our work, your valuable assistance in presenting the Nebraska exhibit at New Orleans, I desire to acknowledge your services in a

more fitting, substantial, and enduring manner than mere expression of thanks, feeling well assured that in so doing I but voice the sentiments of every Nebraskan, as well as all others who witnessed the part you have taken, and the work you have performed. To this end I tender you the accompanying gold medal, in design indicating Wisdom, Industry, Art, and Music. I trust this souvenir will serve to remind you, and even your "children's children" that you have fairly won the plaudit, "Well done, thou good and faithful one."

In addition, accept, please, my thanks, with best wishes for your future happiness and usefulness,

Very truly,

ROBT. W. FURNAS,

*U. S. Com. for Nebraska.*

A catalogue of the state exhibit was prepared, printed, and a copy sent to each contributor early after my return last spring.

During the progress of installation, young Mr. Aitkin, of Lincoln, at the time in my employ, accidentally fell from a scaffold and was badly injured. He was at once placed in one of the best hospitals for which New Orleans is characterized, where he received every medical and other treatment and care possible until entirely convalescent. I paid all the hospital expenses, as well as allowed him wages during confinement.

The *State Journal*, Lincoln, and *Herald and Republican*, Omaha, each manufactured expressly for, and presented the Nebraska Exhibit, large and elaborately bound visitors' registers.

I deem it but due, and am free to say, that in all my intercourse, personal and official, with the Exposition management at New Orleans, all was most pleasant and mutually accommodating. Nothing more could be desired than was done by them and received by me. The eight months spent in the Crescent City were both pleasant and profitable. I left with pleasant recollections, and desires to spend with that hospitable people more such seasons.

I have delayed this report until November, 1885, that I might more advisedly refer to benefits inuring direct to the state by reason of the exhibit made at New Orleans.

Now, in conclusion, permit me to express the belief that a work has been accomplished for the state in which we may all take pride. Trusting that my labor and report may meet the approbation of both yourself and the people, I am, sir,

Yours with great respect,

ROBT. W. FURNAS,

*U. S. Com. for Neb.*







