

WORLD'S FAIR PRICES.

What It Will Cost to See Chicago's Big Show.

HERE ARE THE FIGURES.

A Concise Statement Which the Prospective Visitor Will Do Well to Paste in his Hat—New Views from Jackson Park.

Chicago, April 23.—The lowest figure for which the World's Fair may be seen by a stranger in Chicago with any degree of comfort is \$25 a week. This conclusion has been reached after a thorough comparison of prices that will prevail in various localities, coupled with the fact that I have been long in the land of the Philistines. The charges are well graded and may be said fairly to indicate the character of the accommodations offered.

Under certain conditions a visitor may see all the sights and go home with souvenirs tucked in his trunk for as small a sum of money as \$12 to \$15 a week. You could do this if you have a friend so good as to offer you a sleeping room, or if you can secure a room in any of the religious or philanthropic dormitories; otherwise it will cost you nearly twice as much, for which amount you may indulge in the luxury of a bed—though possibly not a room—all to yourself, and you will have to share a bath room with not more than a dozen others.

No matter how nice you are in your personal habits at home, leave your squeamishness there and treat the whole thing as a picnic and the discomfort as part of the fun. Wear your plainest clothes, prepare to sleep on spring cots, dine frugally on the heathen fare of all the nations of the earth and refuse absolutely, but with good nature, to be fleeced. In a word, make up your mind to live *al fresco* for a month and to enjoy it, and you will go home rejuvenated with no aftermath of sorrow for a depleted pocketbook and exhausted nerves.

It is true that prices will rule high in Chicago this summer and that attempts will be made at extortion. But if these attempts succeed it will be with people who are not informed as to the true state of affairs. It is only by understanding the condition of things that people of moderate incomes will be able to see the fair at a cost well within their means.

ACCOMMODATIONS.

In the first place, it is unnecessary, except in a few instances I shall mention later, and often unwise to engage rooms in advance.

The rooming capacity of hotels, boarding houses and in private houses is fully equal to a quarter of a million. The down-town hotels, with an established patronage are not soliciting custom; but all the others are, which proves that efforts are being made to keep rooms full. It is also not necessary to be located near the fair grounds or in the center of the city, for five rapid transportation lines have facilities for landing 10,000 people every hour in Jackson Park and easy connections are made with these lines from many part of the city or suburbs. Sec. 1 parties of three or four who can occupy a room can get a substantial reduction of cost. Keeping these things well in mind, you can estimate your expenses on the bases of official figures.

RAILROAD RATES REDUCED.

The railroads terminating or centering in Chicago have nearly all come to an agreement on rates that vary from 20 to 25 per cent. reduction on round-trip tickets. So many of the roads have come down to the neighborhood of two cents a mile that others will be compelled to do so in order to get passengers. There will also be frequent excursions run on all roads and the rates for these will depend on the number of people of small means who desire to come to the fair from a distance. They are not to exceed 1½ cents a mile, however, and may be as low as one cent.

This will be easy enough to manage from the visitor's local station. It will be when you arrive at one of the railway stations of Chicago that your troubles will begin. You will be confused by the crowd and strange streets, and will have but the vaguest notion of where to go or how to get there if you do know. In the first case, you can leave your trunks for 24 hours in the baggage-room, where they will be safe and will cost nothing for storage. Hand baggage can be left at the checking counter, which is to be found in

each station, for a day for 10 cents for each package. Thus relieved of bundles you can ask a policeman how to get to a certain point on a street car or you can take a cab.

LEGAL CAB FARES.

The legal rate of fare for a one-horse vehicle for one mile or less for one or two persons is 50 cents. For the second and subsequent miles, 25 cents. If taken by the hour the rate is 75 cents per hour. For two-horse carriages twice this amount may be demanded for two persons and 50 cents additional for every passenger over this number. Children under 14 are charged 25 cents, but those under five are carried free. One trunk not exceeding 100 pounds in weight and 25 pounds of hand baggage is also taken free of charge. All the down-town hotels are within a mile of any of the railway stations. The visitor may stop at one of these for a day for \$4 to \$5 and have time to secure a boarding place. It would be cheaper for you, however, to leave your trunks at the station, take a valise and umbrella and go at once to Jackson Park by any one of the five routes of rapid transit.

a sandwich and a cup of coffee may be had for a dime. There will also be dairy lunch-rooms and the popular eating houses where a substantial meal may be had for from 25 to 40 cents.

This method of taking lodgings and breakfast only is perhaps preferable for those who would see the most during a short visit, as you will be at a distance from your boarding place at meal time. By taking a noon lunch and evening dinner on the fair grounds you will be able to stay all day for one admission, and you can have the added experience of dining in as many foreign ways as there are various nations represented on the Midway Plaisance.

DORMITORIES ARE CHEAPER.

There are very few exceptions to be made to the general rule not to engage rooms in advance of your arrival in Chicago. If you intend stopping at any hotel where you have been a guest before, you will be more certain of your room when you get here and should write engaging the room at least a month in advance, specifying the time you wish to occupy it. One other exception is furnished by the numerous religious and philanthropic dormitories.

Another plan for engaging rooms that has been officially indorsed is that of the World's Fair Boarding Bureau. All incoming trains will be met 20 miles out by uniformed agents who will be prepared to assign visitors to good quarters in any part of the city for from \$2 to \$3 per day. But in thus paying for lodgings in advance it is well to have a distinct understanding of the character of them. Out of a hotel of 230 new hotels in the vicinity of the fair at least 50 are of a tenement nature, built in a great hurry of wood and staff and intended to be torn down before winter. Two have already collapsed after high winds. More than 200, however, are built substantially and will be converted into houses or flats or continued in use as hotels permanently. The difference between the flimsy and substantial structures may be detected at a glance, and you should know what risks you are taking.

ALL FOR 50 CENTS.

The admission ticket entitles the visitor to see all of the World's Fair proper, covering 500 acres of Jackson Park. This includes access to the 12 principal buildings, the State and Government buildings and the headquarters of all countries represented. The guide book may be bought in one large volume or in parts. A few cents will be charged for rolling chairs, gondolas and boats on the lagoon. These will be of great assistance in economizing time and strength. Guides who will pilot a party of five for 50 cents an hour may be hired, but the Columbian guards are prepared to give information, and armed with a catalogue you will have but little use for a guide.

For the one admission fee you may also walk in the Midway Plaisance and see the curious foreign architecture and modes of life and industry. If you desire to enter any of the buildings or villages a fee of about 25 cents will have to be paid as these are private concessions.

If you are prepared to economize you can live comfortably and see all the sights for a month on \$100. One hundred and fifty dollars should be enough for any reasonable human being, though, of course, there is practically no limit to the amount one may spend on souvenirs, works of art and personal display. You can even pay as if you were four persons rolled into one if you insist on a private bathroom at a hotel, but \$3 to \$5 a day will pay all reasonable expenses.

COST OF REACHING THE GROUNDS.

To get to Jackson Park from any point down town take the State-street or Wabash-avenue cable line or the "Alley L" farther down, any one of which will take you to the Fair for five cents. The Illinois Central train



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may be boarded on the lake front or you may go by boat from the foot of Van Buren Street. Either of these routes will cost 25 cents for the round trip; the train makes the trip in 15 minutes, the boat in 45, but when time is not an object a ride on a gay steam launch, with music by band and a view of the "White City" at the World's Fair from the water is by far the more enjoyable. The Illinois Central Road will probably sell commutation tickets of 25 rides at a substantial reduction on a single ride, as they do now to suburban passengers. If your rooms are more than a mile from any of the entrances to Jackson Park this item of transportation

has to be considered in the expenses. It will not be wise to walk much outside the grounds, as you will have the walking you want inside. The distance from the center of the city to Jackson Park is seven miles, and the journey occupies from 20 to 45 minutes, according to the route you take, but if your rooms are on the North or West Side of the city a connecting car line will have to be taken and five cents more paid.

All roads coming into Chicago will land a passenger in the terminal station in Jackson Park for the price of one admission to the fair and 10 cents in addition to the price of your railway ticket. It is by far the simplest and cheapest plan, since in the fair grounds you can transact all the necessary business incident to arrival in a strange city. In the terminal station you may check your hand baggage, have the free use of a well-equipped toilet-room and get a lunch as simple or as elaborate as you wish.

Thus refreshed you can send off telegrams to friends or write letters. If you wish to do this ask a Columbian Guard to direct you to your State building. This will be your headquarters while at the fair, a place in which you have a part and may feel at home.

One of the first things to be done is to deposit all money except the amount necessary for a week's expenses. It is unsafe to carry

a considerable sum about you. You can deposit your checks, drafts or money on a certificate of deposit in a bank on the grounds, or rent a box in a safety deposit vault for a small fee, you having the only key to the box. Money orders may be purchased or cashed at the World's Fair postoffice.

This attended to, return to the terminal station, where the principal office of the bureau of public comfort is located, and resign your-elf to its care with entire faith.

WHAT IT WILL DO FOR YOU.

The moment you leave your train you will have reason to be grateful to the bureau of public comfort. It has built this great terminal station, provided waiting-rooms, toilet-rooms, lunch tables where you may eat what you have brought with you or buy as cheap or as expensive food as you wish. It has placed in the grounds 3,000 fountains provided with sterilized and filtered water; 1,500 closets and toilet-rooms, fitted with every sanitary appliance; medical and emergency hospitals, where the most scientific treatment will be given you if you should become ill. All these comforts are absolutely free, though if you prefer you may pay one cent a glass for mineral water from Waukesha, Wisconsin, and five cents for the use of a more elegantly-fitted toilet-room.

In addition to all this the bureau will refer you to lodgings and boarding places of all grades in the best parts of the city with a

scale of prices, distances from the grounds and routes of cheap transportation.

PRICE OF BOARD AND LODGINGS.

At down-town hotels and at the new hotels near Jackson Park the usual hotel rates of \$3 a day and upward will prevail. Near the Park, where three or four persons occupy one room, the rate for each may be made as low as \$2 per day. For from \$2 to \$3 a day you may go to excellent hotels on the North and West sides of the city, where there will be less crowding, or for the same price to good boarding houses and private families in the vicinity of the fair.

One dollar and a half to \$2 will be demanded by a good class of boarding houses on the North and West sides. Last of all there are vast regions west of State Street on the south side, west of LaSalle Avenue on the north and spots all over that part which lies west of the river where one could live for as small a sum as \$7 a week.

If you prefer, lodgings may be had for about \$1 a day and meals may be taken at restaurants or on the fair grounds at about the same expense. The restaurant concession for the fair is held by the Wellington Catering Company, and extortion is not practicable, as the schedule of prices was fixed by the exhibition officials at the usual rate before the concession was granted. There will be restaurants of all grades, from those as fine as Delmonico's and the highest priced hotels to buffets where