

# FOOD AT THE FAIR.

Restaurant Arrangements;  
Their Extent and Capacity.

WILL SEAT THOUSANDS.

Notable Eating-Houses and the  
Methods of Entertainment.

CHEFS FROM ALL COUNTRIES.

Every Style and Variety of Service for  
the Cosmopolitan.

SOME OF THE NOTABLE PLACES.

Fifty-nine thousand four hundred people can dine at one time in the World's Fair grounds next summer. They will have their choice between thirty-five places. No city in all the world with half a million inhabitants approaches the Fair in the extent, spaciousness, and luxury of club-rooms, restaurants, and cafés. Private enterprise has done as well, if not better, than the Exposition would have done if its officials had not been relieved of the task. The amount of capital which private enterprise has invested in Jackson Park and on Midway Plaisance is very large. It has been expended in that full confidence in the success of the Fair which Chicagoans have felt always.

A cosmopolitan visitor at the Fair next summer can partake of the viands of all nations as prepared and served at home. He can, in this respect, make a tour of the world within a radius of a mile. It will take some time to do it, for the foreign restaurants are as numerous as those where food will be served in purely American ways. If bent on economy he will find lunches as cheap as if he were at home. When the craving for a first-class meal possesses him he need not go but a short way until he comes upon cafés where the best that nature and art can contribute will be at his order.

Wine, ale, beer, and other liquors will be served in nearly every restaurant, but with meals only. Out of this vast business the Exposition takes one-fourth of the gross receipts for the concessions. The income to the Fair from this source alone will run into the millions. Like all figuring on the business of the Fair, the estimates are guesses. But shrewd guessers, who have had the statistics of other world's fairs before them, state they would not be surprised if the Exposition reaped between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 for its share of the money paid at the restaurants.

Sunday closing has had the effect of shading many estimates of concessionaires on the amount of business they would do. On the other hand, much encouragement has come from the announcement that the Fair would be kept open evenings, whenever the attendance would pay for the lights and kindred expenses. This meant a great deal to the restaurants. It would nearly double their business on ordinary days. With the Exposition closed at night it was to be supposed that comparatively few people would get their supper on the grounds. When sight-seeing did not cease with the sunshine, the resting places of visitors would be the roof-gardens and the airy dining-rooms of the cafés. Night opening quite counterbalanced Sunday closing.

## Numerous on the Plaisance.

It is on the Midway Plaisance that dining-rooms, restaurants, and lunch counters will be the most numerous. In fact, every company which secured a concession along the plaisance at once proceeded to add restaurant features whenever it was possible to tack them on. Of course a restaurant in a panorama would not be entirely fitting nor could one be attached to the great wheel, which will carry people skyward in a sort of Titanic perpendicular merry-go-round. But a restaurant could be added easily to the captive balloon, and there was the best excuse in the world for them in the numerous villages. And so restaurant after restaurant has sprung into existence until the dining capacity along the plaisance alone is of a most substantial magnitude. On ordinary days a big majority of the visitors at the park could be fed on the plaisance without much crowding, even if Mr. Gage and all the other concessionaires in Jackson Park should go on a strike.

Some people who have gone ahead with their arrangements for restaurants on the plaisance are beginning to think that the business may be overdone. At best the plaisance is a considerable distance from the main buildings of the Fair, where the crowds will always congregate. It is quite a walk from the Administration Building, which is the practical center of the World's Fair, to the plaisance. So long as the restaurants at the heart of the Exposition are not overcrowded and do not charge more than most visitors are willing to pay it is said that it will be natural for people to dine where they are sight-seeing, and it is thought that the concessionaires along the plaisance will be at a material disadvantage as compared with their competitors who are located in the midst of the park.

It is claimed that the visitors along the plaisance will be sufficiently numerous to sustain most of the restaurants located there. This is a mooted question. The views of the concessionaires who have invested millions of dollars are naturally roseate. Their estimates of many officials of the Fair who have given the subject the most study. There will be so much to see in Jackson Park for one admission of 50 cents that the drawing powers of the exhibits along the plaisance, where an additional admission is charged, cannot be forecast until the crowds come and go their way with their own sweet will.

Counting six changes of plates for every one of 59,400 places at a table the Fair will be able to serve 356,400 meals every day. Even on the big days the crowds can be cared for without discomfort.