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The Ohio Centennial and Northwest Territory Exposition.

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 2108, 55th Cong., 3rd Sess. (1899)

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THE OHIO CENTENNIAL AND NORTHWEST TERRITORY EXPOSITION.

FEBRUARY 14, 1899.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state
of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. GROSVENOR, from the Committee on Ways and Means, submitted
the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 12102.]

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11814) to encourage the holding of an American fair in conjunction with the Ohio Centennial and Northwest Territory Exposition at the city of Toledo, Ohio, submit the accompanying substitute, and recommend that the substitute do pass.

The amendments to the original bill were generally suggested by the officers of the Smithsonian Institution, the United States Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, and other Governmental agencies having the Government exhibit in charge, and are so numerous that it was thought better to recommend the passage of the substitute which accompanies this report.

Professor Hinsdale, in his work entitled *The Old Northwest*, says:

North America is the marvel of human progress; the old Northwest is the marvel of North America. No other region of equal size ever made such progress in one hundred years.

The old Northwest, or Northwest Territory, is practically bounded by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and the Great Lakes. Out of this territory have been created the States of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. A part of the State of Minnesota was also a part of the Northwest Territory.

Ohio was the first State to be carved out of this territory, in the year 1802. When admitted its population was about 48,000. In 1902 its population will have increased to 100 times that number. She then numbered eighteenth in population among the sister States. Forty years after she numbered third.

In 1802 the entire tax levy was less than \$30,000, and the annual appropriations still less. The total wealth of the State was estimated at \$14,000,000; the total values of real and personal property will aggregate \$6,000,000,000 in 1902.

In 1802 the total revenues, State and local, were not much in excess of \$40,000, while now they aggregate more than \$40,000,000. Then a schoolhouse was a rare thing; now there are 580,000 pupils attending the public schools, and thirty or forty millions of dollars of public money have found investment in school buildings and sites.

Ohio has approximately 13,000 miles of railroad, involving an enormous expense for construction and maintenance. More than \$300,000,000 of capital has been invested in manufacturing plants in the last ten years, and hundreds of millions of dollars have been paid for labor for manufacturing alone during this time.

Following Ohio, Indiana was admitted as a State in 1816, Illinois in 1818, Michigan in 1836, Wisconsin in 1848, and Minnesota in 1858.

What has been said of the progress and development of the old Northwest, or Northwest Territory, may with equal truth be said of each of the great States into which it was divided. Each has had a wonderful growth and development, and it is doubtful if there has ever been such progress, everything considered, anywhere else in the world.

For a number of years the people of Ohio have been considering the question of observing in some appropriate way the one hundredth anniversary of her birth as a State. During this time many things have been proposed. Among others, the proposition to erect a memorial building at the capital of the State has taken shape in an act of the legislature and an appropriation looking to that end.

While this was and is all very well in its way, it did not seem to satisfy the people, and at the last session of the Ohio legislature, by joint resolution, it was determined to hold an exposition, "such an exposition as will not only fitly commemorate the deeds participated in by the State and its citizens during the first century of its existence, but also such an exposition as will truthfully and fully represent the immense growth and development of the State and the great Northwest Territory, of which it forms a part in all its varied resources."

The location of the exposition has been fixed at Toledo, and the joint resolution above referred to was followed by an act creating a commission of twenty-one members, one from each Congressional district, to prepare and perfect a scheme to be submitted to the general assembly of Ohio for its approval at its next session. A local centennial commission of nine members was also provided to work in connection with the State commission.

Much of the work of the commission has been accomplished. They have decided to accept the site known as Bay View Park, located partly within and partly without the city limits of the city of Toledo. The park contains 800 acres of land, has a water front on Lake Erie, and is in every way admirably adapted to the needs and requirements of a great national or international exposition.

The city of Toledo, being in the northwest part of the State, is most accessible to the people of the other States originally composing the Northwest Territory, who have already manifested such an interest in the exposition as to insure its success beyond anything hoped for in the beginning.

Toledo is a large, beautiful, and prosperous city, with extensive commercial and manufacturing interests and with good hotel accommodations. It has a fine harbor on the Maumee River near its mouth. It is one of the great railroad centers of the country.

In the selection of a site for a great exposition the historic interest of the locality is a feature of merit. The land now constituting the

State of Ohio was the battle ground between civilization and savagery one hundred years ago. A few miles from Toledo, on the Maumee River, was fought General Anthony Wayne's great battle of Fallen Timber, which practically settled the Indian wars of that period and prepared the way for the settlement of the territory of the old Northwest.

This battle was preceded by the massacre of the forces under Generals Harmer and St. Clair at Fort Recovery and Fort Wayne. Fort Meigs, which withstood two sieges by the combined Indian and British forces during the war of 1812, and where Colonel Dudley and his brave men were destroyed while coming to the relief of General Harrison, is located on the banks of the Maumee near Toledo. Fort Miami, on the opposite side of the river from Fort Meigs, was the last stronghold occupied by the British in this country after the close of the war of 1812. The great naval battle of the war of 1812 was fought in Put in Bay, a short distance from the city of Toledo. The name and the achievement of Commodore Perry should be familiar to every child in the land.

Work has already commenced on the park in the way of preparing it for the uses and purposes of the exposition. It is estimated that the necessary changes and improvements will cost about \$300,000, of which \$150,000 has already been provided, and the balance will be forthcoming as it is needed for the prosecution of the work.

As stated in the bill, the Ohio Centennial Exposition Company, a corporation, has been formed under the laws of Ohio for the promotion and conduct of the exposition, the purpose of which is declared to be "the exhibition of the resources of the United States of America, Hawaii, Porto Rico, and the Philippines, and the progress and civilization of the American countries, and for a display of the arts, industries, manufactures, and products of the soil, mine, and sea." It is also declared in the preamble that such an exposition should be international as well as national in character.

This company has a capital stock of \$500,000, about \$100,000 of which has been subscribed. A few wealthy persons have offered to subscribe for the whole of the capital stock of the company, but it is thought best and wisest to obtain a large number of subscribers, each for a small amount, for the stock already available, as well as for any increase which may hereafter be authorized.

The exposition is not for profit in any pecuniary sense, and the wide distribution of its capital stock will secure a more general and patriotic interest in the exposition and defeat any effort to reduce it to the status of a mere commercial enterprise.

The State of Ohio, as already stated, is thoroughly committed to the project, and will appropriate for it at the next session of the legislature a sum not less than one-half million dollars.

The bill provides that no expenditure of the money appropriated under this act shall be made until there has been obtained by said "exposition corporation subscriptions of stock, contributions, donations, or appropriations from all sources for the purpose of said exposition a sum aggregating not less than \$500,000, nor until the State of Ohio shall by legislative enactment have appropriated a sum of money equal to that herein appropriated."

While the initiative in this great work has been taken by the State of Ohio, and properly so, it is proposed to secure the active cooperation and participation of the great Northwest States in making the Ohio Centennial and Northwest Territory Exposition the greatest ever held in America, and the steps already taken in this direction afford the greatest encouragement.

An invitation has already been extended jointly by the governor of the State and the president of the State centennial commission to the governor of each State in the Union urging participation, and from answers received it is believed that every State will in some way contribute substantial support to the exposition. Such an exposition as it is proposed to hold in Ohio ought to receive the encouragement of the General Government; such encouragement will insure its complete success and thereby greatly contribute to the growth and development of that spirit of progress which has enabled our country in the one hundred years of its national life to take a leading place among the nations of the world.

There will be brought together in endless variety all the products of the soil, mine, and sea; of art, science, and literature; all that industry, inventive skill, and genius have added in one hundred years to what there was before.

There will be a graphic display of all those things which show at a glance the progress of a century.

Opportunity will be had to compare our products of to-day with those of one hundred years ago, and of comparing our own products with those of other nations.

Such an exposition will do much to acquaint the people of America and those of foreign countries with the vast resources, possibilities, and opportunities for capital and labor in this country not to be found in any other part of the world.

The expositions held in Philadelphia in 1876, in Chicago in 1893, and since the latter date at Atlanta, Nashville, and Omaha, while not generally profitable to those directly engaged in their promotion, have been most gratifying in their results in making known to the people of the world our capabilities as a nation and in widely extending our business relations.

They have also been social and educational triumphs, the benefits of which can not be estimated.

To properly prepare for an exposition of the magnitude of that contemplated in the Ohio Centennial and Northwest Territory Exposition much time is necessary. As stated above in this report, the exposition grounds are now being fashioned for the commodious location of the buildings and other necessary structures.

For this reason those in charge of the work should know as soon as possible the nature and extent of the assistance to be had from the General Government.