STATE OF NEW YORK

REPORT

OF THE

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION

FOR THE

CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR CENTENNIAL

CELEBRATION

ALBANY
J. B. LYON COMPANY, PRINTERS
1933
REPORT

To His Excellency, Governor Herbert H. Lehman and Members of the Legislature:

Sirs,—The Commissioners appointed pursuant to chapter No. 662 of the Laws of 1931, and as amended by chapter No. 160 of the Laws of 1932, to prepare and propose plans for participation by the State in the Chicago World's Fair Centennial Celebration to be held in the year 1933, present this report.

The act creating this commission provided that the membership should consist of the Commissioner of Public Education, the Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, a member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Temporary President of the Senate, a member of the Assembly to be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and one member to be appointed by the Governor of the State. In carrying out this act, the personnel of the Commission was named as follows:

Robert Moses, appointed by the Governor,
Cosmo A. Cilano, appointed by the President pro tem of the Senate,
Ralph A. Gamble, appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly,
Dr. Frank P. Graves, Commissioner of Education,
Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Commissioner of Conservation,
Berne A. Pyrke, Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets.

The bill carried an appropriation of $75,000 with the understanding between the fiscal authorities that a further appropriation of $25,000 be made in 1933.

The first meeting of the Commission was held on the second day of February, 1932, in the Executive Chamber at the Capitol, Albany, New York. On motion of Commissioner Gamble and seconded by Commissioner Moses, Senator Cosmo A. Cilano was elected Chairman.

There was some general discussion as to the plans for setting up an exhibit in Chicago from the State of New York which would be worthy of its dignity.

Several meetings of the Commission were held between February and May when general plans which might be followed in making a creditable exhibit at Chicago were considered.

As it was deemed advisable for the Commission to visit Chicago, view the site of the Fair, and meet its managers, the next meeting was held in that city April 7th to 9th, 1932. The Chicago Com-
mission entertained the members of the New York State Commission on an inspection trip to the Exposition grounds, and in a conference our members discussed with the sub-committee chairman of Chicago, plans for New York State’s participation in the Fair.

At a meeting of the Commission, held May 6, 1932, on motion of Commissioner Graves, Charles E. Ogden of Rochester was elected Secretary to the Commission, at a fixed salary, and a resolution was passed authorizing the Chairman to engage from time to time whatever assistants or clerical help as, in his judgment, might be required to carry out the purposes of the Commission, at salaries to be arranged within discretion, the same to be paid out of the appropriation made for this Commission upon proper vouchers therefor.

The Chairman announced that the resignation of Commissioner Robert Moses had been received by the Governor. Later the Governor appointed, as a member of the Commission, Berne A. Pyrke, who had been succeeded as Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets by Charles H. Baldwin, the latter having, ex officio, become a member of the Commission.

Dr. Hugh P. Baker, Dean of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, addressed the Commission and recommended that as part of the New York State Exhibit at the Chicago Exposition, the State include a display of New York State’s activities in connection with reforestation.

On June 10, 1932, a contract forwarded by the Chicago Century of Progress authorities for 5,000 square feet of space in the State Building, amounting to $22,500 was executed by the Commission.

At a meeting held July 7, 1932, at the State Capitol, Eugene Schoen of New York City, a leading architect and Professor at the University of Wisconsin, was chosen as technical adviser to the Commission, on a commission basis, and Frank W. Darling, General Manager at Playland, Rye Beach, New York, and Gilmore D. Clarke, well-known landscape architect, were appointed as Associate Advisers, without compensation.

At a meeting held August 31, 1932, Eugene Schoen, technical adviser to the Commission, described his proposed plan for the New York State Exhibit. It consisted of photo murals, flash light deceptions, live representations of Niagara Falls and the whole space would be filled with a dignified ornamentation and the dramatization features and motion pictures would give plenty of action.

The Century of Progress Exposition Commission have granted to New York State, without charge, outside space of about 6,000 square feet. It is planned to utilize this space for ornamentation and for displaying New York State’s reforestation and outdoor camps, etc.

The plan of Mr. Schoen was adopted by the Commission, including his tentative budget of expenditures.

Mr. Schoen was authorized to employ Mr. Joseph Urban of New York City for constructional work, and Mr. Edward Steichen of New York City for the mural photographic work, both leading artists in their lines. The Attorney-General ruled that these contracts could be legally executed, without competitive bids.

At a meeting of the Commission held December 20, 1932, Mr. Schoen submitted the plans and stated that he had received the approval of the Chicago Century of Progress Commission for their execution. He presented a revised budget and stated that he believed these plans would be completed within the appropriations made by the Legislature of $75,000 in 1932, and the additional appropriation of $25,000 in 1933, leaving a small balance to meet possible contingencies or to return to the State Treasury. The revised budget was accepted and approved.

Salaries and traveling expenses have been paid and contracts have been let and paid for, amounting to $39,908.18; contracts have been let, but not paid for, to the amount of $27,391.75, making a total of $67,299.93. The budget includes items which have been set forth as necessary, but not yet contracted for, in the sum of $28,700.07. These amounts make a total of $96,000. The Commission feels that this amount includes every possible contingency for the setting up of the exhibit, taking care of it during the period of Exposition, and disassembling and returning shipments.

The Commission, in order to execute its plan, urgently recommends passage of an additional appropriation of $25,000.

The Commission does not wish to close this report without expressing its gratitude to the members of its advisory board, Frank W. Darling, Gilmore D. Clarke and Eugene Schoen, to Dr. Hugh P. Baker, Dean of the State College of Forestry at Syracuse University; to Assistant Commissioner of Conservation, Herbert E. Gaston; State Historian, Dr. Alexander C. Flick and Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, Christian P. Norgord, for the interest they have taken and the time they have given to the consideration of the various problems confronting the Commission. The Commission expresses its indebtedness to these gentlemen for their many useful and practical suggestions, and for the work they have done in planning this New York State exhibit.

COSMO A. CILANO
RALPH A. GAMBLE
BERNE A. PYRKE
FRANK P. GRAVES
CHARLES H. BALDWIN
HENRY MORGENTHAU, Jr.