

Electric Fountain

Aquatic Feature in North Bay to Be in Operation By the End of the Week

June 16, 1901 Buffalo Newspaper (Courier or Express)

Before the end of this week the great North Bay electric fountain will be in full operation. Since the exposition was thrown open to the public many persons have seen and inquired about the pile of stone that rises from the water's surface in the middle of the North Bay. Various guesses have been ventured as to its purpose and then, in the press of other things to see, it has been forgot. The opening glories of the exposition, unfolding one by one and pressing each other closely for public attention, have for the time being, crowded out the fountain in the North Bay. For all that, the prosaic-looking pile of stones is the foundation for what, it is hoped, will be the greatest feature of the exposition's night display.

Supt. Rustin months ago evolved the scheme of placing such a fountain as that in North Bay and immediately set about the realization of his idea. He saw at once that the high shores and thick dark green foliage of North Bay formed an ideal background for an electro-aquatic display and the possibilities of a picture painted on such a background filled him with enthusiasm. Carefully and patiently he went about the creation of the fountain and now, after months of hard work, he has announced that the fountain is ready to make its debut.

The craft of the electrician and the mechanical engineer has been called upon to do its utmost to perfect the mechanism of the feature and when, within a day or two, it is put into operation for the first time, there will be nothing to excuse or explain. Water in every imaginable form shooting hundreds of feet into the air and illuminated by ever-changing colored lights will give a partial idea of how the fountain will look when it is in operation, but even then it is assured that no suggestion or forecast will quite equal the appearance of the fountain itself. There will be column jets mounting high above the treetops and curtain jets circling the gray stone island with a wall of falling spray. There will be wheat-sheaf jets and pyramid jets, throwing tons of water into the air to fall with a roar on the lizard-shaped island upon which the fountain is built. All that mass of water will fall within the range of powerful reflectors whose constantly changing chromatic lenses will cause a never-ending play of colored light in the myriad drops. Then, too, the form of the various jets can be changed at will, so that a pleasing variety of shapes may be imparted to the outward appearance of the fountain.

All of these wonders will be worked from a chamber in the interior of the fountain itself. In that chamber are the powerful pumps which throw the water and there is generated the power for the light of the display. An operator on the inside will regulate the forced of the water and the color of the lights which are to be played upon it. Every detail will be so completely under the control

of that man that he will be able to get the desired effects of light and form just as a pianist, by operating the keys, is able to produce different musical expressions.