

THE STATE FAIR.

Candor compels us to say that this institution was a miserable failure this year. Whilst the display of vegetables, cereals, fruits and stock was very fine, what there was of it, it yet lacked competitors. The same might be said of every department and we do not have far to go to find a reason. Whilst the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society is composed of some very worthy gentlemen, they do not pay sufficient attention to the wants of exhibitors. For instance, we find Oregon manufactures crowded into a space ten feet long by two feet wide, whilst a San Francisco firm who desired to raffle off a piano, and to cover the idea of it being a gambling scheme, sold boxes of yeast powder and gave away tickets to this raffle, were given one-half of the north wing of the pavilion; and an advertising exhibit of paints and venders of jewelry, opera glasses, etc., occupied the other half of this wing. Samples of the actual exhibit of nearly everything contained in the north wing could have been easily accommodated in the 10x2 space, whilst Oregon manufactures should have had the entire north wing and more space if necessary. By furthering every scheme for gambling purposes and crowding Oregon productions entirely out, the managers are injuring the interests of the society to such a degree that unless they pursue a different course in the future very little of actual interest will be placed on exhibition at their fairs. The time has come when but very few respectable exhibitors venture to display their productions along side of schemes for robbing the people.

The fair is also held too late in the season, for nearly every year we have more or less rain in October. The excuse is that farmers are not done harvesting earlier, but we believe if the fair was properly conducted nearly every farmer would manage to come for two or three days, even if held in September. The experiment is worth trying. Have your fair last ten days—say from the 15th to the 25th of September. Have your trials of speed, but do not allow the sale of pools anywhere on the fair-grounds. Crowd out everything from the pavilion that is not an actual exhibit, and rigidly exclude gambling schemes of all kinds. Give every accommodation to Oregon exhibitors and

your fair will soon be what, with our vast resources and enterprise it should be, the very best State Fair in the United States.

OUR INDUSTRIAL FAIR.

With but little preliminary announcement, the first industrial exhibit ever held in this city, opened on Monday evening, October 21st, and continued for eight days. It was a decided success and demonstrated what can be done when the people are aroused—we must say, however, that it required some vigorous rib-poking on the part of Mr. H. D. Sanborn to wake them up.

The idea of an industrial exhibit in this city originated with Mr. S., and to him belongs the credit of the immense success it has proven. As a public spirited man Mr. Sanborn has not his equal in this State, and we do not see how our people can ever sufficiently repay him for all he has done and is still doing to make Portland, and in fact the entire State, popular, both at home and abroad.

Now that the ice is broken we hope that the Industrial Fair will remain a permanent institution. The city owns two blocks of ground near the Court House which they can afford to donate to any association that will take this matter in hand; and now, whilst the iron is hot, is the time to strike. It will be very little trouble to sell \$20,000 to \$30,000 worth of stock for erecting suitable buildings, and by next year we can have an exhibit which will compare favorably with any State in the Union.

OREGON PRODUCTIONS.

At the late State Fair, besides other articles, we particularly noticed an exhibit of twenty-six varieties of valuable timber growing in Coos county; it included myrtle, live oak, laurel, etc. Carrots from Clackamas county that produced 1,683 bushels to the acre; corn that yielded 148½ bushels to the acre; onions that went 1,014 bushels to the acre; rutabagas 37 tons to the acre; beets of the Mangel Wurzel variety 37 tons to the acre; squashes from Marion county where six of them weighed 1,256 pounds, the largest being 237 pounds and the smallest 180 pounds. Lane county showed wheat of the "Red Cliff" variety which shows eighty-eight heads, the product of a single grain. Both Linn and Polk counties exhibited some rare specimens of oats, barley, buckwheat, corn, rye, flax, and sweet potatoes. Of fruits,

Multnomah county exhibited apples of the "Glori Mundi" variety that weighed two pounds each, and "Pound Pears" that weighed two pounds each; quinces and other fruits of remarkably large size and fine flavor. Clackamas county also made a remarkably fine exhibit in the fruit line.

BAKER COUNTY.—The agricultural resources of Baker county are but feebly developed; as a stock growing country it has no superior; its minerals should afford an attractive field for capitalists. Judge Sterns, in his able address at the Baker County Fair, recently, among other remarks, said: "The mineral wealth, too, of your country is hardly prospected. In yonder mountains, for generations to come, the miner with stoic fortitude will delve, but not in vain, for that treasure that gladdens the earthly heart of all mankind. Lazy, sluggish capital, will come to his assistance as soon as a transcontinental railway shall be established. It will come as sure as the road comes, and the road will come as sure as Congress shall ever become energized with that spirit of justice and fraternity and intelligence that ought to pervade its councils."

Oregon has an area of 95,274 square miles and possesses 60,975,360 acres of land, only one-sixth of which, or 10,000,000 acres, have been surveyed.

A WALLA WALLA FARMER.—We have in our mind's eye a gentleman who came to this valley a few years ago from Iowa, and took up a quarter section of land. This land he cultivated, and as adjoining farms came into market he bought them up, until now he has 600 acres of the finest land the sun shines on, all enclosed and under cultivation. He has thousands of fruit bearing trees, and literally has made himself a paradise. All the work on this farm was done by himself and boys, and now the family is one of the most independent in the country. A capitalist passing by this farm lately, and after looking it all over, made an offer of \$50 an acre for the entire 600 acres. This is equal to a fortune of \$30,000, and all made by a practical farmer in a period of less than ten years. The offer was declined, and the land cannot now be bought for less than \$60 an acre, and even at this figure the owner does not care to sell. Incidents like this go to show the character of our country, and prove what we have always claimed that for the class of men known as "small farmers," there is no better country in the world.—W. W. Statesman.