

A WORD FOR THE MECHANICS' FAIR.

THE sixth annual exhibition of the Mechanics' Fair will be held in this city in October, commencing on the 9th and closing on the 25th. The President of the association is Mr. J. B. Congle, one of Portland's oldest and most respected business men, and the Superintendent Mr. E. W. Allen, whose services in that capacity rendered the fair of last year so successful. The association was wise in again selecting a gentleman who has demonstrated his peculiar fitness for the position. The value of these annual exhibitions of the products and industries of the country, not only to this city, but the whole Northwest, is not sufficiently realized. It is not the desire of the association to confine the exhibit to Portland, but to embrace all the varied industries and resources of both Oregon and Washington Territory; and they earnestly urge the people of every section to make a display of the products, manufacturing industries and resources of the region in which they reside. The benefit to be derived from this is great. Thousands examine the display, among whom are great numbers of strangers, who do so for the purpose of gaining information. The apathy displayed by those who should give earnest support to this institution was commented upon in our review of the exhibit last year, and we cannot do better than to quote the language then used:

There are a number of features that could be considerably improved upon, and would be if more general interest were displayed by the business men. In particular the display of manufactures could be made more interesting and beneficial. Instead of such an endless array of completed articles, much of them imported, there should be shown, as completely as the limited space will permit, the process of making the article from the raw material. In one or two instances this is done, as in the pottery exhibit and the rope-making display, and the crowds that surround those places are but an indication of how much more attractive to the visitor and beneficial to the exhibitor is such a showing. Then there is the omission of some of our most important industries. Our great lumbering business is practically unrepresented; the immense canning industry of Astoria is conspicuous by its absence. No one would imagine from a visit to the pavilion that this is a State rich in minerals, and that thousands are engaged in wresting from the bowels of the earth their hidden treasures of gold, silver, coal and iron. There is a display of elegant furniture; but how is one to know that it is not imported, and that the Oregon wood can be and is daily being made up into as elegant furniture as one can wish for? What is there to impress upon the stranger the idea that we manufacture a score of articles that are displayed simply in their completed form or not exhibited at all? We certainly hope to see an improvement in this respect another year.

It was only by the use of all the persuasive powers he possessed that the few manufacturing exhibits of last year were secured by the Superintendent. Mr. Allen is now vigorously canvassing the field, with a determination to make as complete a display of those manufactures and products hitherto unrepresented as it is possible to secure, and if he is half as successful as he deserves to be, the fair this year will be of far greater interest to the people, and of infinitely more value to the exhibitors, than any of its predecessors. His office is at No. 6 Washington street, where he will be pleased to meet the people and give all information desired. He invites correspondence from those without the city who desire to make a display, and earnestly urges the live business men of every county or manufacturing community of Oregon and Washington to appoint a committee to see that the industries and resources in which they are interested are properly represented. In this way the country can reap the full benefit of the exhibition.

NOTES OF THE NORTHWEST.

A new sawmill is being erected near Columbia Center, Garfield County, W. T.

Gas works are being constructed at Tacoma. There will be four retorts, with a capacity of 100,000 feet.

The copper mine on Guemes Island, Puget Sound, will soon be reopened and operated. The old shaft is down 400 feet. Numerous veins have been found assaying 25 per cent. copper, \$5 gold and \$10 silver per ton.

A large silver mill, with power for 100 tons of ore daily, will be immediately erected in the Ten Mile District, eighteen miles from Helena, Montana. The mill will be operated in connection with the Caplice and Tatham mines.

Wheat fields, covering an area of two by six miles, were burned July 25, near Waitsburg, W. T. The loss, \$100,000, falls heavily upon the farmers, who have been counting upon the large crop to place the balance on the right side of their account.

The Depot and La Grande Street Railway Company has been incorporated, with a capital stock of \$25,000, for the purpose of constructing a street railway from the business portion of La Grande, Union County, Or., to the depot of the O. R. & N. Co.'s Baker City branch, located on the outskirts of the town.

Mr. G. Davies, the enterprising book dealer of Seattle, W. T., has just returned to that city from the East, where he purchased a large stock of goods. He is now fitting up an elegant store in the Opera House Block. Seattle will soon boast of possessing the handsomest and most complete book and stationery store in the Northwest.

The lime manufacturers of San Juan Island have wisely concluded that the true interests of that growing industry require a cessation of strife and a united action in business matters. To this end they have constituted the Tacoma Lime Company of this city their sole agents, from whom only any desired brand of San Juan lime can be procured.

A number of gentlemen owning 7,000 acres of land at the Three Forks of the Missouri, in Gallatin County, Montana, and two cattle ranges in the vicinity, have laid out a town called "Missouri Forks." Besides the valuable agricultural and grazing land surrounding the new town, there is a mining district within four miles, which contains many promising ledges.

Cumberland coal is sold in Kittitas County, W. T., at \$80 per ton. A vein of good coal was opened on Teanaway River recently, and as its product can be laid down in Ellensburg for \$50 and in Yakima for \$60, it will probably drive out the more expensive article. That is certainly a high price to pay for coal, but such are the disadvantages of being several hundred miles from a railroad.

A new town has been laid out in Whitman County, W. T., on Willow Creek, and on the line of the Palouse