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THE Oregon State Fair was a disastrous failure, owing partially to a waning interest in these annual exhibitions. The people were far more interested in saving the large portion of their crops from threatened destruction than they were in exhibiting the small portion already harvested. Besides this, the directors seemed to labor under the impression that it was their duty to keep the fact that a fair was to be held a profound secret, and no one can accuse them of being unfaithful to their convictions. We need and can support a good State Fair, and Salem is the only proper place to hold it, but the directors must manage it in a more thorough and business-like manner to make it a success.

THERE have been rich discoveries of placer diggings in the Little Rockies, a range of mountains in Choteau County, Montana, and there seems to be a disposition displayed by certain newspapers of the Territory to work up a boom similar to the Coeur d'Alene stampede which cursed this country but a few months ago. We advise them to go very slow in this matter, even if absolutely certain—as they by no means are—of the value and extent of the new diggings. Otherwise they may have the sin upon their souls which now oppresses—or should if it does not—several over zealous papers of the Coeur d'Alene stripe. Such a stampede as was witnessed at the latter place would do Benton vastly more harm than good, and her citizens should not recklessly create it.

AN UNMIXED EVIL.

A pamphlet, from the pen of Mr. C. B. Carlisle, has recently been issued under the title, "What Readest Thou?" calling the attention of thinking men and women to the corrupting and debasing influence upon the rising generation exerted by the immoral and pernicious literature which covers the counters of our news dealers. Nothing in Mr. Carlisle's long career as a journalist has given him so extended a reputation, and brought him into such favorable notice among the better class of our citizens, as his efforts to cleanse the filthy stream flowing into the minds of the youth of our land. His pamphlet should have the widest circulation, and receive the thoughtful consideration of all fathers and mothers who would remove the snares set for the feet of their children. Do what they may, parents cannot wholly remove their children from these contaminating influences so long as the flaming pictures are posted up to catch the public eye, and the papers, with their poisonous contents, are hawked about the streets, thrust before the face of virtuous women and innocent children in railway cars, left lying on the ground or upon chairs and tables in private offices and places of public resort. Nothing but the absolute prohibition by the Legislature of the printing and sale of such a class of publications, with a penalty sufficient to render the statute effective, can be of avail to check this growing evil. The matter has been taken hold of vigorously in several States on the Atlantic Coast, and will be urged upon the Legislatures of Oregon and Washington during the next session of those bodies. Every journalist who believes that the people, and especially the young, whose minds are as plastic clay, receiving lasting impressions from everything with which they come in contact, should be supplied with clean and wholesome reading, should do his part in arousing the community in which he lives to the deep gravity of this subject. Mr. Carlisle says:

Unless you have narrowed in your own mental activities, unless you have lost interest in the welfare and up-building of the race, you cannot remain an apathetic spectator in the presence of such a monstrous evil. When you learn, as you must in any investigation of the subject, what vast sewers of impure thought are running beneath our social life, how much of the morally poisonous gases these sewers are emitting into our homes, your intellectual and moral sense will be outraged. When you come to realize that the youth of the land, youth of both sexes; those in the formative period of life; those who are coming on to mould opinion and sentiment, are made the chief objective point of attack, well may you be alarmed. When you know that through the influence of these evil agencies hundreds and thousands have gone down from the coronal summits of a maiden's pure-heartedness to the basilar depths, where in the endless gloom and unlifting miasm of a polluted life no pure thing lives, is it not enough to fire the heart of every rational being against the men who in this way are coining souls into dollars and cents, who are putting honor and innocence under the minting die? Should it not be enough to make every decent man an unrelenting, untiring enemy of these moral Attilas? It is the colossal villainy of this day. Every attribute of the rational, order-loving, home-loving, children-loving man builds in the air an indignant protest against this merchandise of that which is best and most worthy in life. Language is too impoverished in its invective and withering quality to adequately denounce such a monstrous thing. No man can rise to a commensurate pitch of denunciation of the evil, and there were never alabaster boxes enough in the world to celebrate with fragrance the blighted characters and carcasses of the beings who