

neapolis and Duluth, the three leading receiving points for wheat in the Mississippi Valley, report a great falling off of receipts as compared with last year, indicating a general inclination of farmers throughout the great wheat belt to hold their crops for better prices. This will have a tendency to hasten the time of the predicted advance in the market. There can be no doubt that it should be the policy of our farmers to hold their grain as long as they can do so without serious embarrassment, as every cent added to the price they receive means so much additional money to circulate among our people. Wheat is the chief source from which the Northwest derives the money it squanders in purchasing abroad many articles it should produce at home.

It is now believed that ever since work on the extension of the Oregon & California was stopped for want of means, the Central Pacific has been seeking to secure control of that road. At that time work was suspended on the northern extension, and to bulldoze the people into relaxing their fight against the land grant, the company announced that the unfriendly attitude of the citizens of California prevented the borrowing of money to build the road, and that until there was a radical change in sentiment work would never be resumed. The insincerity of this is now shown by recent resumption of work at Delta without any change in public opinion having taken place. It now transpires that the delay was caused by efforts to secure control of the O. & C., which, according to rumor in railroad circles, have been successful; hence the resumption of work on the extension. It is evident that a route into Portland is of vital importance to the Central Pacific to place it in a position to hold the San Francisco trade against the northern roads and secure the Oregon trade for that city. To Southern Oregon, at least, the road will be of great benefit.

THE time is now approaching when the advertising "fakir" will be abroad in the land, and our merchants will be extended on the rack. Every Mechanics' Fair and holiday season sees a mushroom crop of papers and advertising schemes spring up and flourish for a season and then disappear. The money which sustains them in their brief career is wasted and brings no benefit to those who pay it. The same sums paid to our standard publications, which have a circulation and influence, would purchase advertising of some value. The *News*, in the course of a sensible article on this subject, makes the following pertinent remarks: "Annually certain periodicals from California, and especially San Francisco, taking to themselves the title of 'commercial' papers, swoop upon this portion of the country and fill their columns with advertisements, by means of their blarney and golden promises. The business community is anxious that the local press should speak in favor of local interests and industries, and are desirous of keeping trade from going to San Francisco, and yet they turn right around and liberally patronize the papers of that place. The Mechanics' Fair last year was afflicted with a lot of advertis-

ing mountebanks and charlatans, who issued sheets which were read by nobody. The sole end and aim of these charlatans was to swindle the advertiser, and this end they accomplished most successfully. It is to be hoped that a repetition of this experience will not be needed this year. These fellows will be here during the coming Mechanics' Fair, and those who have their own interests at heart will give them a wide berth."

THERE is a movement on foot among some of our most energetic and practical business men which promises great results for the prosperity of Portland, if the citizens only take hold of it in the same spirit as its projectors. Appeals to our capitalists have been made for years, but they seem to be only too well satisfied with the present condition of affairs. Our merchants and small property holders must cut loose from their dependence on the capitalists and themselves do what is needed. If our business men would invest a few thousand dollars in manufacturing, not for the purpose of making money out of the factories themselves, but looking for their returns to the increase of business and property values generally, they would soon be satisfied that they had made a wise investment. The project spoken of includes this idea, though, of course, it does not embrace all the field in which such ventures might be made. The enterprise contemplated is a manufacturers' aid association. It is proposed to incorporate a company with a capital stock of \$100,000, the management of which shall be in the hands of our most honorable and trusted business men, who shall administer its affairs without any compensation, simply as a trust of honor. The company will secure a large plot of ground in the outskirts of the city, easily accessible from the railroads, possibly by a switch track, and will erect buildings, fit them up for factories, supply ample steam power, and lease space at a low rental to various manufacturing firms. Were it not for exorbitant rents and the expense of building and furnishing power, many small industries, employing in the aggregate a great many men, might establish themselves here. With such facilities as this company could offer them, men with small capital could use their means to push their business and force their goods upon the market, instead of consuming it all in preparing to manufacture, and thus crippling themselves before beginning operations. In this way industries may be founded and aided to gain a foothold, and thus the era of manufacturing in Portland be happily inaugurated. That with such facilities to offer we will be able to induce many industries to locate here which might otherwise go elsewhere, or which might not feel justified in making any effort whatever in this region, is patent to every one. The benefits to be derived need not be pointed out. With our population doubled, our volume of trade greatly increased and activity infused into every line of trade, the promoters of this enterprise will have accomplished the purpose aimed at. Though this company is not organized as a money-making enterprise, it is not proposed, in case the project is successful, that the stockholders shall