

other halls. This garden has been laid out to good advantage and the growth of plant life that is now sustained there is surprising. The choicest exotics, as well as plants and trees of native origin, are included in the rare collection now making its home in the exposition building. The galleries on either side of the botanical garden contain seating accommodations for more than 1,000 people and on the floor of the spacious hall are promenades among the beds of flowers and foliage whose perfume loads the air. This garden is one of tropical splendor. At one end of the hall is a roomy stage set in grotto work representative of the mountain scenery with which the great northwest abounds. Behind this grotto is a magnificent landscape painting showing mountain peaks in the distance and such incidental views as are frequently met in the incomparable Cascades. The arrangement of the grotto work and the painting so that they blend perfectly, and the promenades through features of rugged scenery so real as to deceive the senses, show great ingenuity and skill on the part of the artist who planned and executed the work. At the opening Thursday night the scene presented in this hall, with the vast concourse of people assembled there and the strains of music from Liberati's renowned band floating in the air, was truly enchanting. No such an event was ever witnessed in the west before. It was a fitting opening for so great an enterprise. The semi-cylindrical glass roof of this hall is supported by eleven arches from the center of which are suspended powerful electric lights that shed an effulgent radiance making the night scene even grander than the day.

Immediately to the west of the botanical garden and on a level with the galleries lining that interesting department is Machinery hall, covering an area of 150 x 200 feet. In this section is also the horticultural exhibit. Off this hall and adjoining the main building is the boiler room and engine house from which power is furnished for running the machinery in the exhibit and for lighting the entire exposition by both arc and incandescent electric lamps. On the east side is another hall 150x200 feet, which, together with the upper floor, is devoted to general exhibits of finished products, the mercantile trades, etc. These include photographic, musical, furniture, light machinery, educational and other displays. The art gallery is an enclosed space seventy-five by thirty-five feet in the front part of the General Exhibit hall. A wall space of 4,600 square feet is covered with pictures well worthy of examination. Every thing in the art department is catalogued with the name and address of the artist. The art exhibit is a very complete one.

One of the prominent features of this exposition is the great orchestra led by Signor Liberati. This band consists of fifty artists of acknowledged ability in their

profession and it is a notable stroke of enterprise on the part of the exposition management to secure such an attraction for the first season of the fair. Four vocalists accompany the orchestra. Besides the rendering of all classes of special music during the continuance of the exposition, this orchestra will give sacred concerts on Sunday afternoon in the exposition building. The high order of music furnished by this band will have an important influence in elevating local musical taste. It is expected that the sacred concerts will be especially instructive and delightful.

In connection with this exposition is a fat stock show. This feature is a new one for Portland and it promises to be a very successful innovation. This portion of the fair, however, does not open until October 14th and it will continue six days. Several acres of ground adjoining the exposition building are at the disposal of the association for this purpose and buildings have been erected for the accommodation of more than 200 head of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, etc. The entries have already begun and great interest in it is manifested by stock fanciers generally.

Thus this great fair between the dates of its opening and closing will include a comprehensive exhibition of the best industry of the northwest. It is especially designed to accommodate the products of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, though the whole Pacific coast receives attention and even sections east of the Rockies whose products particularly interest this region are represented. The exposition will not only show what has been done in the great west and many of the capabilities of a country concerning which there is too great popular ignorance, but it will afford the producers new ideals and stimulate them to greater efforts toward perfection. It gives an opportunity for outsiders to become, in a measure, acquainted with the resources of the northwest. Eastern people who have been accustomed to looking to California for all the really important achievements of the Pacific coast will have their eyes opened by this imposing display and be led to examine the merits of a country that can make such a showing when its industries are yet in their infancy. There are represented here the products of farm, factory, mine and range. The arts and sciences show what progress has been made. The muses have not been neglected, as is evidenced by expense incurred to secure the best music and art pieces of a high order.

Mr. Dekum, the president of the association, deserves great credit for the part he has taken in bringing the exposition to its present stage of success. He has labored unceasingly in the enterprise and performed a service that no one else could have done. Mr. Dekum and the publisher of the *West Shore* started the ball rolling and they have reason to feel proud of the result of their exertions.