

THE SPOKANE EXPOSITION.

The first representative exhibition of the products and industries of the great inland empire of the northwest, is now in progress in Spokane Falls. The coast country from San Diego to Victoria has had its fairs and expositions wherein were displayed more or less complete representations of the character and extent of the country's resources, but the great inland country west of the Rockies has not before attempted an industrial exposition at all commensurate with the vastness of its natural and developed wealth. The scheme of holding an exposition in Spokane was suggested late last spring, and the Northwestern Industrial Exposition company was organized on the tenth of June, and capitalised at \$60,000. A site valued at \$60,000 was given for the building, plans were adopted and contracts let, and the active work of organizing an exposition that would be properly representative of the country was begun at once. The directors insured success from the start by engaging the services of Mr. Charles W. Robinson, an experienced and competent manager of enterprises of this nature in the east. Mr. Robinson was fresh from Europe where he had been studying special and general features of the exposition business, in the interest of New York in the world's fair contest. When he left Paris he had in his possession what the managers of the Paris exposition declared to be the most comprehensive and accurate statistical information on this subject that had ever been collected in Europe. He took hold of the Spokane exposition with a perfect knowledge of every requisite for success, and under his direction the matter assumed definite form from the beginning and grew to the proportions that so many thousands have studied and wondered at from the first of October.

The exposition building is located in the eastern part of the city, and when construction was begun the site was in the midst of huge piles of basaltic rock. A great transformation has been wrought in that locality since that time. Streets leading to the exposition grounds that were then totally impassable are now among the most perfect in the city. The piles of rock have been razed and all the surroundings made comfortable and pleasing. The building itself occupies a ground area 200x300 feet, and has three floors devoted to exhibits—160,000 square feet. On the first, or basement floor, are the displays of wagons and carriages, farm and mill machinery, bins of permanent grain exhibits, the aquarium, the engines for driving exhibition machinery, and the dynamos that light the entire building and run an electric railway nearly five miles long. The engines furnish 450 horse-power. This electric railway lands passengers directly at the south entrance to the exposition building, while the Ross Park road, another electric line about four miles long, passes near the north entrance. On the lower floor of the building is also a considerable space where a palace of delusions mystifies people.

The second floor is mainly devoted to exhibits representing the different sections of Washington, Idaho and Oregon. Of Washington, Yakima county presents "the results of irrigation," while Whitman has an equally imposing display, "raised without irrigation." The best grain displays are from the Palouse country and the Big Bend. Whitman county has the most complete grain exhibit in the exposition, among the selected samples being one from a field that produced 101 bushels per acre of wheat this year. Her fruits and vegetables are also in the front rank. Yakima has mineral water and an interesting display of vegetables and fruits, and specimens of tobacco that are pronounced by experts superior to the best Cuban production; her sorghum and watermelons are notable. Yakima county presents quite a variety of minerals, among which are fine specimens of the only anthracite coal found in the northwest. Kittitas, however, has the most imposing coal exhibit in the exposition, it being a solid block of bituminous coal 2½x4x12 feet, from the Roslyn mines. There are a large number of rich specimens of gold, silver, copper and iron ores from Kittitas, as well as a varied line of fruits and vegetables, collected and placed on exhibition by the energy of Ellensburg business men. Lincoln county productions include a very creditable exhibit of grains, fruits and vegetables, two very amusing black bears and several massive heads of mountain sheep. Adams county displays among its cereals and vegetables an immense cougar as one of its produc-

tions. Nez Perce county, Idaho, has a very luscious fruit display for its main feature; it has a squash weighing 149 pounds. Freewater, Oregon, shows among other things, mammoth broom corn and sugar cane, and some very fine fruit. Medical Lake, the popular summer resort near Spokane, has a small lake in the exposition with appropriate surroundings and many specimens of the products of that curious sheet of water that is so strongly medicated in nature's alembic. A miniature of the state asylum stands on the bank of this lake.

The Puget sound country is well represented at Spokane Falls. Seattle people have taken special pains to arrange a very creditable display, and one that is unique in many ways. Its shipping interests are represented by a model of the steamer *City of Puebla*, complete in every detail so far as appearance goes. A section of fir tree shown is eleven feet in diameter. Lumber, coal and iron resources are shown to advantage, as well as her manufacturing interests. The press of Seattle has an excellent display. Tacoma is not behind in its timber exhibit, and it shows a fine box of hops, specimens of asbestos, sandstone and coke, and a number of manufactured articles. Olympia and Thurston county show attractive samples of building stone, tin ore, wooden water pipes, a miniature cranberry marsh, etc. Port Townsend has a *papier mache* miniature of itself and surroundings in relief, and so on through an array of the best of every kind from every section, that is bewildering in its magnitude.

The ores on the third floor form one of the most interesting features of the exposition. They are of all kinds, from the *Coeur d'Alenes*, the Colville district, the Kootenai, the Metaline, the Okanogan, the Clarke's Fork, the Salmon river, and many other mines. The crystal sand found in the country tributary to Spokane is displayed in considerable quantities, and some of its uses are illustrated. In the mineral department one may get a good idea of the manner of obtaining and treating various ores. The Colville smelter exhibits a considerable number of pigs of lead-silver as turned out from that institution. There are several valuable mineral cabinets in this department. The whole exhibit is very interesting and it speaks with much force of one of the important factors in Spokane's growth.

A great deal of space is occupied with displays by Spokane business men in the various mercantile and manufacturing branches, and there is not an unattractive one among them. The displays of dry goods, furnishing goods, carpets, furniture, musical instruments, edge-tools and glassware, contain many unique and pleasing features.

The art gallery is certainly the best ever seen west of Minneapolis. Manager Robinson, who takes

special delight in art, says the shipment of pictures for this exposition was the first one he ever opened without disappointment. One hundred paintings were brought here from New York, and are the works of such artists as Poore, Wiggins, Moran, Kluth, Darget, Fox, Rousee, Hasbroock and Remington. Probably the pictures by Frederic Remington, being striking features of western life and handled with consummate skill, are the most popular in the gallery, though the art critic would prefer others. The collection embraces a pleasing variety of subjects, and many different schools are represented. There is nothing in the gallery that causes either the people or the press to discuss the propriety of the display. There are 158 pictures by local artists, and these constitute a collection that would be worthy of attention in any exposition gallery. They comprise oil, water colors, pastels and crayons. Lovers of art find a treat in the Spokane gallery, the like of which they seldom have an opportunity to enjoy. Besides the paintings there are a large number of specimens of art needlework, inlaid work in wood and miscellaneous articles of more than ordinary merit in the art gallery.

While there is no museum proper or zoological display there is a large number of interesting specimens of the taxidermist's art and some amusing animals. The black bears from Lincoln county attract much attention, as do two pretty, spotted fawns. A big, green crane runs at large bearing such printed announcements as "I buy my candy at Sweet & Sour's" or "I read the *Morning Echo*," and varying the monotony of its existence by biting too familiar persons.



BLALOCK BLOCK, SPOKANE FALLS, WASH.