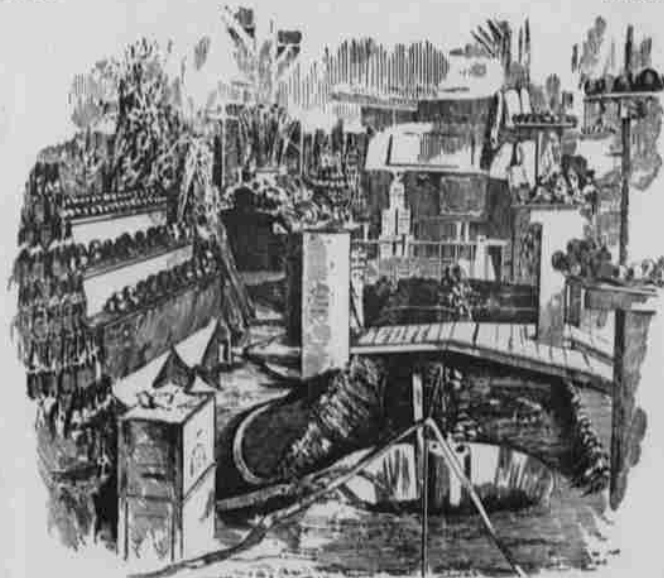


The Spokane exposition is well supplied with music. The Royal Hungarian orchestra, of New York, embracing ten string and reed pieces, occupies the art gallery, which is a spacious apartment with seating accommodations for several hundred in addition to an abundance of room for dancing. This suits the young people immensely. Then a consolidated band is made up from the military bands of Fort Sherman and Fort Spokane. These thirty musicians have a stage in the main hall, and render select programmes both afternoon and evening. Between the numbers by the consolidated band, the orchestra does its part. The music hall and adjoining galleries will seat comfortably 4,000 people.

One might with reason expect to find in an exposition of this magnitude, conceived and consummated in less than six months, many things that would speak of hurried work and general incompleteness. The undertaking was a vast one and there is probably no record of a similar achievement in so short a time and under like conditions. And the visitor can not but be surprised at the completeness of all the arrangements and the substantial character of every thing about the building. The idea of permanence is expressed in every detail. The best materials entered into its construction, and every accommodation, such as water, light, etc., is as good as in the best business blocks in the city. As an indication of its strength, the lowest floor will sustain a weight of 3,000 pounds and the one next above 2,000 pounds to the square foot. No part of the building has been built merely for the season's exposition, to be torn away when this shall have ended. Such matters as the exterior painting are yet in progress, but everything affecting the utility of the building is finished and in such a manner as to make it continuously and permanently serviceable.

It was understood from the beginning that many features of the exposition should be permanent. The mineral and grain exhibits were to be among these and have been provided for where doubting Thomases may repair at any time to behold with their own eyes wheat or oats on stalks six or seven feet tall, and try the quality of the duly attested phenomenal yields, and where they may see the ores of all kinds and degrees of richness from all points of the compass. In carrying out the design in this particular the Spokane exposition will be a source of a vast amount of practical information for the on coming thousands from the east. But a new use was recently suggested for the machinery hall, and the suggestion is likely to be carried into effect. It is that the hall be made a nursery of manufacturing—where experimental manufacturing may be carried on by those interested in the results to be obtained. Spokane Falls is so young and the country around it so new that capitalists are sometimes reluctant to put money into manufacturing there because they do not see ocular proof that their special line will be a success. To furnish power and room for machinery where the results in any given branch of factory work may be actually wrought will serve a very important purpose, and it is in a direct line with the object in view in establishing the exposition, though a step in advance of the original design.



PORTION OF AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.



THE PUGET SOUND EXHIBIT.

Mrs. M. A. Pittock, well known in Portland, has written a charming romance entitled "The God of Civilization," with the scene laid in the Hawaiian islands, where she spent a year preparing the material. She has been contributing many interesting articles about that island country to the eastern press.

OUR STARRY FLAG.

The lily may fade and the stalk decay,
The rose from its stem may sever;
The thistle and shamrock may pass away,
But the stars shine on forever.

EMILY A. KELLOGG, in West Shore.

A WORD IN ANSWER FOR THE SHAMROCK.

'Tis certain the lily and rose will die,
That the thistle will perish is likewise sure;
And 'tis true that the stars will shine on high
As long as the heavens and earth endure.

But, beneath the pall of the winter's snow,
Or the genial rays of the sun god's smile,
The shamrock, too, will forever grow,
Verdant and fresh, in its native isle.

J. T. DILLON.

The Columbia River Railway & Navigation Co., formerly the Farmers' Railway, Navigation & Steamboat Co., has filed articles of incorporation in Washington, with a capital stock of \$2,000,000. The purpose is to build a railroad from the mouth of the Columbia river, along the north side to the mouth of the Yakima river, some distance above Pasco; thence to the mouth of the Okanogan river, in the northern part of Douglas county; to build a portage railroad from the Columbia river, near the mouth of the Klickitat river, to a point near Columbus, Klickitat county, and to operate steamboats and other craft on the Columbia and Willamette rivers. Considerable work has already been done on the portage road, and steps are being taken for the establishment of the line of steamers to Portland in the near future.

Considerable discussion has been caused in mining circles during the past week by the reported sale, or rather option for the purchase, of the great Granite Mountain mining company's properties located in the southeastern part of Deer Lodge county, Montana. The consideration is said to be \$30,000,000, or an average of \$75 per share for the entire number of shares of stock. The bond is said to run for ninety days and ninety per cent. of the stock is to be turned over to the syndicate which is composed of English capitalists. The Granite Mountain is at present the largest silver producing property in the world, and pays larger dividends than any other mines now being operated. There is scarcely a probability of the deal being consummated as stockholders are generally loth to part with such splendid property, and to secure ninety per cent. of the stock for transfer will be no small undertaking. It is to be hoped the mines will still be owned and operated by Americans, and the proceeds applied to building up our own country. If it is worth such an enormous sum to English capitalists it is surely worth more to Americans.