

# LEWIS AND CLARK CENTENNIAL



It is daily becoming more evident that the idea of "the Western World's Fair" is grandly catching on throughout the country. People today are keenly alive to its practical possibilities, whereas it was not so very long ago that their interest was cursory, or even indifferently. And since I have visited former exposition cities to study their methods with a view to adapting the best and most valuable ideas to the requirements of the 1905 Centennial in Portland, my conclusion is that we shall have trouble in finding room for all the exhibits that we shall have—general, state and foreign countries.

The Lewis and Clark Exposition is planned upon a scope calculated to be ample enough to interest the entire United States; to exploit this vast, rich country of ours; to provide cosmopolitan amusements and to present for the edification and instruction of the population of the West Coast States and the Intermountain Country such an array of the products of progressive science, industry and education as has never been gathered together west of the "father of waters." There is no question whatever

in my mind as to whether we shall have the best of everything to show, both from our own country and from the Eastern states—the real trouble, as I have said, will be such extensive offerings as will necessitate careful picking and choosing to accommodate the supply to available room.

**Scenic Site Now Ready.**

Much important work in preparation has been performed this past year on the site and it is a safe assertion that never before in the world's history of exposition enterprises was the ground in so excellent a shape a year in advance of the show. Our gates will open and the Fair will be in complete readiness on the date selected. The combination of natural features of park and lake near the harbor of the Willamette and commanding at the same time a panoramic sweep of the snowy pinnacles of the Cascade range is quickly grasped by strangers, who have pronounced the Exposition grounds unsurpassable for scenic beauty. The year after next will find fruition of years of talk and advertising—of which this Exposition is primarily intended to be the cap-stone—of the Oregon Country. This will be the first large Exposition of an international character that has ever been held in far westerly latitudes. Ever since the exposition held at Omaha there has been a remarkable stimulation to the campaign to add to the Western

States' population. This campaign has been conducted with an education purpose as well as to make felt the unselfish desire of Western people to better the material welfare of their Eastern friends and neighbors and to have them share the delights and the benefits of this superior country.

**Oriental Fair a Feature.**

Ambition in no small degree to illustrate the future possibilities, of this country and its trans-Pacific seaport commerce, this Exposition will demonstrate to the commercial world, as positively nothing else will, the actual inception of the era of new trade relations with the teeming millions of people of Asiatic countries. Stress is to be laid upon the Oriental feature of the 1905 Exposition. Here, upon the very threshold of the Orient, with a comprehensive exhibit of their products shown and with every facility offered our Far Eastern neighbors to open up new supply markets, much good will flow from this commingling of interests.

In a sense, we will have the West Coast on exhibit in 1905. The Exposition in its most attractive and wealthiest, most cultured and progressive city, will give us a long lift onward toward that 200,000 population mark.

In no section are people more keenly awake to the matter of progress than in the West. In no other place does the

welfare of states, commercially, industrially and otherwise, receive closer attention. The people here are manifestly proud of their growth of 100 years since the famous explorers drifted down the Great River of the West in their canoes spying out the land, beholden before by no white man. Momentous, indeed, was the event when it became known that the road to Asia was one of the greatest of water roadways and not a myth, as the old Spanish geographers supposed it was.

**Worthy of the Explorers.**

That the anniversary of the exploration of the great Columbia River land to the ocean be worthily celebrated and marked by the erection of monuments to Jefferson's explorers is the ardent desire of the people of the West. It is essentially a people's Fair, and it has been evident from the inception of the business that the public feels a certain proprietary interest in the successful accomplishment of the event. The achievement of the explorers rather gains with the passage of time, for the years point with unmistakable emphasis to the magnificent results that sprang from the humble beginning of American sovereignty in the log fort where Lewis and Clark wintered at the mouth of the Columbia. The Oregon Country, the states which were carved out of the territory and its Exposition—which will typify it—shall com-

mand the respectful attention of the nations of the world.

After the very worthy patriotic motive for the holding of the Fair, the practical purpose in view is the exploitation of the Greater West. In this connection, let it be clearly understood that the Centennial is anything but a Portland enterprise.

The transcontinental railroads having indicated that the most nominal rates will be allowed for the comparatively short trip from the Missouri River to Portland and return, it will bring thousands after thousands of strangers to view and investigate the country and its sights, enjoy the Exposition, which will be a magnificent symposium of the varied commodities which the Pacific Northwest produces—shown under the best conditions, and, incidentally, attract fresh capital and energy to the task of developing our latest resources and bringing settlers for our untaken valleys and plains. I believe it is becoming more patent to the people every day that this Exposition is for the greater good of the greater number. Hence, the Pacific Northwest celebrates it.

So favorable has been the showing made for Oregon at every one of the past National expositions within a decade that it is fair to say that many thousands of Eastern travelers and pleasure-seekers, as well as many thousands of homesek-

ers, are already prejudiced in favor of this country. They have heard much of the Great West and of the Pacific Northwest in particular, and, at a time when the eyes of restless ones in congested portions of the industrial and agricultural portions of the Middle West are turned inquiringly toward opportunities for homes and fresh starts in business westward, it is most pertinent that the time be seized upon to draw the people here.

**International in Scope.**

The Exposition's character will be international. Assured of Government assistance, its scope, naturally, will be extended to a greater extent, but no point has been overlooked toward securing the participation of the chief grand divisions of the world here in 1905. From my interviews with the leading commissioners from foreign nations while visiting at St. Louis and in New York and Washington, I am fully satisfied that they will be represented by splendid, full exhibits. What is not the least important in this connection is the friendly attitude of the representatives in this country of China, Japan, Korea and other countries toward the Lewis and Clark Exposition and its purpose to induce fuller intercourse between the peoples of the Far East and their logical supply quarter, the Pacific Coast, which has begun to feed them from its prolific resources.

The Exposition will have a main

group of beautiful buildings on its picturesque site, with abundant room to permit of the erection of separate buildings by sister states and by foreign nations, many of which, it is certain at this early date, will put up structures. Chief of the Exposition group will be the States building, the Administration building, the Festival Hall, Palace of Liberal Arts, Electricity building, Fish and Fisheries building, a Temple of Fraternity, built by fraternal organizations, and an Oriental building. Others may be added to this group as may become necessary. There will be a Government building. A Philippine village is intended as a strong attraction. Japan will, no doubt, have a typical bazaar representing industrial life, arts and manufactures, occupying several thousands of feet of space. Good progress has been made toward securing the approval of European countries for government exhibits. The preparatory work has been done and will be consummated when, near the opening of the year 1904, the Government of the United States will proclaim to the world the celebration at Portland and invite all nations to attend.

**Displays From the State.**

An important feature of the Exposition will be the result of nearly two years' careful work of the Oregon State Commission, which will have very full exhibits from the state of every

