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Buildings at Fair All Will Be Completed in Time for Opening

With the opening of the Lewis and Clark Exposition rapidly approaching, it is gratifying to the officials and the people of Portland, to note that the work has advanced to such an extent as to surpass the most sanguine hopes of all.

If current reports may be accepted as a criterion, such a condition is wholly unprecedented. It is universally known that in the instances of the Chicago, Atlanta, Buffalo and St. Louis Expositions, upon the opening days, much remained to be done. There was a deplorable absence of the finished appearance which will prove a marked feature of the Lewis and Clark Exposition.

According to an official report of the percentage of completion, issued by Director Works Oscar Hilber, the buildings and landscape gardening of the mainland and the decorative work is advanced to a total of 90 per cent. In St. Louis, within three months of the opening day, work was advanced but 50 per cent.

The mere fact that the Centennial is advanced to such an extent within four months of its opening day, is in all probability due to the ideal climatic conditions which unquestionably have materially facilitated the work of construction.

In Portland there are none of the climatic disadvantages which so greatly retarded the progress of previous expositions. From the day that ground was first broken, work has continued unceasingly, with the result that little other than the installing of exhibits now remains to be done.

When the grounds of the Lewis and Clark Exposition are thrown open to the public on June 1st, visitors may walk through both buildings and grounds and to the most remote parts of the fair site entirely unimpeded. All debris which necessarily accompanies the hurried construction of exposition buildings will have been removed, and the great exhibition commensurate of the famous exposition to the Northwest will be wholly complete.

The large forces of workmen which in previous expositions were putting forth superhuman effort to expedite completion, and unconsciously striving to wear the gala attire which should be characteristic of such enterprises upon their opening days, will not be in evidence at the Lewis and Clark Fair.

On the mainland, the principal exhibit structures are practically completed. In some of them are at present stored exhibits waiting to be assembled and installed. The Administration group and the imposing Colonnade Entrance are finished. Those buildings which were recently deemed necessary, inasmuch as the magnitude of the enterprise was necessarily colossal and for which contracts were let for their construction only within a few weeks, are being erected as fast as possible. Aside from the construction of a great number of state buildings has been commenced and is being advanced with all reasonable haste.

The work of the landscape gardeners is almost finished; their efforts having been crowned with a most worthy success, and the result will prove a very agreeable surprise to the visitors. In no exposition have the national features been so unusually common as they have in Portland, and these, with the conception of some of the most able landscape gardeners in the world, will give the Lewis and Clark Exposition a park that may not be equalled.

Phenomenal has been the progress in constructing the government buildings on the peninsula. Little more than two months ago this tract was nothing more than a barren waste. Today the structures have assumed such proportions as to present an imposing appearance when viewed from the grand esplanade. In the course of another month these edifices will have been covered with staff and all the ideas of the architect will be presented as realized. The following excerpt from Director Works Hilber's report will give an intelligent idea of the progress to date:

Landscaping on mainland, 98 per cent

Buildings on mainland, 95 per cent

U. S. Gov't Island and buildings, 70 per cent

Bridge of Nations, 80 per cent

Decorations and statuary, 90 per cent

Electrical Illumination, 90 per cent

State Buildings, (12), 97 per cent

American Inns, 30 per cent

Grand Esplanade and terraces, 80 per cent

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Up to the People

Governor Chamberlain compelled the legislature to withdraw the emergency clause from the big general appropriation bill. He thus made it possible for the people to say for themselves whether they will submit to the extravagance of our law-makers. At least one-half or near that amount of the more than two million dollars appropriated, is unnecessary and a part of which is forbidden by the state constitution. Of this fact a vast majority of the people of Oregon are now fully aware. The thing now to do is to take the necessary steps that may each express his opinion about the matter. Yamhill county, we learn is commencing to move in the matter, and no doubt will soon have petitions for the referendum on Linn county should not wait upon the movements of others. It is as much our duty to protect our own interests as it is for Yamhill to protect hers. Every taxpayer who receives a notice from the tax collector, feels that money is being taken from him unjustly by the state and that the extravagance and in some instances unlawful appropriations of past legislatures are the cause. The people believe that an entirely low extravagant system of appropriations for state purposes have grown up, that ought to be checked. They also believe that we are paying entirely too much money for state government for the benefits received. The people expect as the population increases, that the expenses of government will increase also; but that the expense should not increase more rapidly than the population nor hardly as fast.

The extravagances of legislatures of the past is responsible for our present referendum law. Had reasonable economy been maintained, had our law-makers themselves been subservient to the law and had been controlled by reasonable horse sense, there would have been no thought of limiting their power, by placing the veto in the hands of the people. But a condition, not a theory, state before the people and it behooves them to waste no time in grubbing and condemning legislative extravagance. It is up to the people to act.

If the day ever comes when the public will take over the visible wealth of trusts such as the Standard Oil, the public need have no conscientious scruples about the matter. The Standard has held the people up whenever it saw profit. With its ability to raise the price of refined oil at pleasure, and to depress the price of crude oil at will, is it any wonder that it has made its dividends so large? It does this without giving the people anything in return for it. When the cost of crude oil, and of refining, with a reasonable profit is paid the company for its product, then, if it had any of the milk of human kindness in its heart, it ought to be satisfied. The fabulous millions this company possesses, and its total disregard for the rights of others, has caused the investigation of its affairs. If it becomes necessary for the government or the state to take possession of the Standard's plants, we repeat, the people need have no conscientious scruples about the matter. The people have paid the Standard, over and above a reasonable profit, enough money to duplicate these plants, many times over. What better is the Standard, any way, than the highwayman? In either case your money is taken without your consent. True, the Standard robs you in a semi-legal manner, but it is nothing but cold-blooded robbery all the same.

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The Referendum Will Be Invoked

Yamhill county, realizing that if Referendum p. 1110 were to be circulated, that the people may have the opportunity to say for themselves if they were willing to longer submit to the normal school graft, have today taken hold of the matter. She will have from 500 to 1,000 petitions printed and sent through the state for signature. 4,500 signatures of legal voters are required, and must be filed with the secretary of state before May 15.

The items of the big appropriation bill that the Referendum cannot reach amounts to \$673,355; the items in the bill that the people may reject amount to \$773,000. If the necessary number of signatures are obtained, it will be submitted to a vote until June of next year.

On the whole it looked like a case demanding a very exhaustive and searching investigation, and a legitimate investigating committee was appointed, ascertained some facts, made a cursory report on the last day of the session, and there the matter ends. A similar performance was gone through with two years ago, and may be again two years hence, but nothing further has been done about the matter, nor, probably, ever will be.

The loss business has, however, fallen into some disrepute, and the present state land agent, having no general and distinguished assistant to play first "base," wears a wrinkled brow of care.—Oregon Journal.

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