

The Sandhill Fair

IF a rather trite observation can be pardoned and the exuberance of the press agent be conceded, the Sandhill Fair is announced this year as bigger, better and more interesting than ever. We go to press while the fair is still unhatched and the Secretary thereof is yet interceding with old farmer Fergus McEachern McEcelefachan of Ballochmyle for the possession of three ears of corn.

When your editor was a small boy a Fair was, for the mind, an intellectual holiday, and for the inner man, a debauch of pink lemonade. But now it seems that we have fallen on solemn days, and Fairs have become sorely "educational" and correctly dietetic. Oh, where is the African whose head I smote! Where, oh where, is the hawker whose dulcet tones sang irresistibly to my pocketbook until I came forward and on his oilcloth-covered altar trustingly offered him tribute of a nickel for his wares! Peace to their honored ashes! And may God be good to little boys nowadays who are denied these soul-stirring joys.

We may except, however, The Horse Traders Convention. This will be quite in line with the unedifying and noble tradition dear to our fathers of old. It touches the high water mark of achievement. It is altogether a breathless and brilliant inspiration. It exalts Pinehurst to the level of Bartholemew and Donnybrook. And the fame of it hath already spread from Dan to Beersheba and the traders have gathered together an assemblage of equine beauty the like of which was never seen by man. For proud Bucephalus will paw the earth beside the old gray mare (who ain't what she used to be) and the snowy Arabian will whinny to the bray of the answering jackass. And the traders themselves? Friends, let us pause. These are, indeed, gentlemen who are the last remnants of a worthy line.

I was about to mention the Berkshire Hog Show and Sale. Here on the 21st, we meet with porcine grandeur truly awful; here we see majestic, dish-face, sows of the *haute monde*; here is that eight hundred pound boar of cavernous grunt, all oblivious that his delivery on the grounds nearly ruined the expressman for life.

Through a cheering concourse of people will pass in review the best parade ever staged hereabouts. Following in the wake of the twenty-eight Teemoree Military Music Makers and their attendant small boys will come our soldiers, sailors and marines, and each one anticipating, as he marches along, not only the Red Cross dinner that is coming to him, but also the pleasant sound of the old, familiar words: "You may fall out, men, and smoke if you wish." And in their due order and sphere, as the marshal ordains, will follow patriotic floats, and exhibits symbolizing all the important industries of the Country.

We are not permitted, either, to reveal the full details of the superb Pageant which will mark the height of the festivities. We know our school children have been drilling these past months on all the songs of the Anies—including Portugal and Costa Rica—and when these young ideas do at last lift the shrill voices in amazing chorus in the presence of thousands of spectators, the delight of all—choristers included—will know no bounds.

All who have ever directed a pageant, or ever been in a pageant, or even threatened with a pageant, will surely have some conception of the soul-sapping struggle inevitably experienced by those in charge of the performance; let it be known, therefore, that the difficult task was allotted this time to Miss Esther Tufts and Miss Alice Page, and further be it known that, at this late hour, these good souls are still in the best of health and we predict that they will not only survive but receive congratulations on all hands for their splendid work.

It is most unfortunate that this page must be written in prophecy before the Fair is held. It precludes all possibility of doing justice to it; nor can we in our small, allotted space render homage to Charles Picquet in appropriate measure. Picquet is the guiding and directing genius of it all. His is the great achievement of having taken a baby fair in his arms and nursed it along until the baby can stand on her own feet and hold her own among the fairest of the fairs of North Carolina.

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