

The Sandhill Citizen

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LEADERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP IN VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

It is beginning to appear suspicious when time and time again some enterprise, some forward movement, seemingly doomed to fail, becomes a glowing success and for no other reason than that a program is being carried to its consummation through individual leadership. With a program, leadership and fellowship then miracles can be performed by communities, regions and nations. The compliments of life's activities calls for working together in a group and in a cause. It is this that is marvelous in the recovery of the United States under the leadership of our President and the deputy leadership of his lieutenants; and, this thought comes to us: If every school district in every state could have duplicated Mr. Bushong's daring and remarkable performance between 1930 and 1933 the Depression would have reversed its concavity. We suspect that there are thousands of communities in the South and many in the Sandhills now lagging for the want of leadership and the want of cooperative support of group activities. Read the report on the South master teacher of vocational agriculture in this issue.

IS THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR SLIPPING?

While we recognize the probable existence of unsolved difficulties confronting the return of a State Fair in name and reality we are, nevertheless, quite positive that North Carolina has not in recent years had a fair that approached in either volume and quality a display of our states resources as a state fair should. A comparison with other states that produce agricultural products of about the same gross value will show that North Carolina falls far behind as a promoter of her State Fair. The body of men who have

the honor and assume the duty and responsibility of promoting and safeguarding our state fair should ever keep in mind the necessity of exhibiting the whole state and its vast variety of products coming both direct and indirect from the farm.

For many years responsibility of our state fair rested upon the shoulders of a semi-mythical corporation or society that performed its functions largely by proxy. When the fair threatened to become stalled upon a rocky or muddy road, the commission to hold a state fair was transferred to the State Department of Agriculture. Recently the Department sought to have the "cup passed." We are inclined to think that the Department was wise in doing this in view of the fact that the last legislature was more interested in local than in state wide enterprises.

It now appears that this State Fair "child's" parentage is in doubt and that it is started for an orphans home, or to be farmed out for financial gain. A state fair is (or should be) a state-wide educational institution and managed with far more decorum than in the past.

We doubt the propriety of placing the burden of a State Fair upon the shoulders of any existing state department or state institution. Its management should be under the direction of a board or commission and its development should rest jointly with the State Department of Agriculture and the State College of Agriculture, after the elimination of politics from the body having the fair institution under direction.

At the present time it appears that we are facing the possibility of the passing of the North Carolina Great Agricultural Fair; else its becoming a local or regional fair and in competition with other fairs of equal magnitude, each contributing to the larger cities of the state.

The contest that has long been waged between independent, and often selfish interest, and cooperative interests has been too often won by the former. That this should not be so is the heart and purpose of the New Deal.

There may be more than one plan or program leading to the permanent development of a real State Fair in North Carolina. Some way may be found and put to work permanently.

The Sandhill Citizen is not criticizing any individual or any group of individuals. It is generally recognized that recent State Fairs have not represented the state's variety and quality of products subject to exhibition. Fairs should be truly educational. Past fairs have been of immeasurable benefit to North Carolina. On the other hand the plan and program of our State Fair is due to show improvement commensurate with the states resources, progress and performance. At no previous time has our state been in greater need of a comprehensive and representative

State Fair, and this should witness exhibitions not only from Cherokee to Currituck, but also from Ash to Brunswick. But the State Fair should not be leased, hired out or bound out, but nurtured by the breast of the State and remain the State's child.

* * *

This presumptuous writer has unselfishly worked with 21 out of the last 23 North Carolina State Fairs in several capacities. This close association with our State Fair has brought the conviction that a state fair should exhibit the whole states products; and, that the most logical plan by which the greatest number of counties (and people) can be influenced to participate in a State Fair and make it a state fair of and by the people is found in the sensible principle and practice common in scientific discovery and classification; i.e. resting upon progressive natural order of relationship; and, above all simple and workable.

This plan contemplates: (1) Community or township fairs in each county. Exhibits that here win highest awards enter in— (2) Competition at county fairs and again the first premiums go to— (3) District fairs from whence in turn the blue ribbons from all district fairs compete (4) at the State Fair.

This simple program, if carried out, insures the best of the best's best at the State Fair!

This plan offers an opportunity for unlimited participation. Every individual is privileged to produce, prepare and enter the product of his labor, skill and ingenuity. Should this plan be put in operation in each state then groups of state may be organized for district expositions and these feed a national exposition.

The Sandhill Citizen is presumptuous enough to offer the above as a basis for an orderly and logical system of fairs under the general control of three ex-officio directors; the governor, the commissioner of agriculture and the president of the College of Agriculture.

* * *

Where do the Sandhill farmers come in, some one may ask? The answer is that the Sandhill region with its distinctive soil, climate, products and people is already mapped and awaits the development of a plan and the putting of the plan to work in 1934. The plan "comes in" when our own people open the door.

"PARKS"

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renew health in some far away region. They will have their own health and recreation centers.

The New Deal is distributing cards to the mountains. The Coastal Plains are being given a "hand"; and, this is being done for two reasons; first, because the people living in the mountains and along the coast are asking that they be allowed to "sit in" the game; and, second, because nature has given them a place to

live that in unique, different, diversified, and desirable.

There is another region in the Carolinas at least equally unique, different, diversified and desirable in the whole and decidedly superior in some respects to the other regions; and, as eligible as the others for the establishment of a national park, as a conservational and demonstrational unit. Has the government been asked to aid in the development of this region, this district Sandhill territory?

In continuing its editorial the State says: "Anything that any one can do, to preserve or help preserve, he should do it gladly. Only God can make a tree; but by His help in its preservation and its placement so to increase its beneficence, man may greatly enhance the value of this gift of God to humanity.

"Perhaps in no other way may this help be so intelligently directed as in activity in behalf of parks."

If the Sandhills are to have a park, for conservation, demonstration or natural resource development, then the influential citizen and the civic and other organizations of the Sandhills Empire must unite in informing Uncle Sam of the opportunities he will not miss if he gives his people of the east, west, south and north another playground, another educational institution in a region that is different from any other, The Sandhills of the Carolinas.

MAKE FODDER PULLING UNNECESSARY

Let's make whatever arrangements may be necessary for enough winter roughage and pull no fodder. Corn leaves stripped from the stalks and properly cured, produce a palatable roughage. But if there is no cost chargeable other than the stripping of the leaves, then stripped fodder still would be a costly roughage. Stripping or pulling is only a small part of the cost. To make fodder that is worth anything, the leaves must be stripped long before maturity of the grain. This means the food supply of the grain is cut off, since the food utilized by plants must first be taken up by the roots, carried to the leaves and there properly prepared and then distributed throughout the plant for its use. This fodder is made from corn leaves. It can easily be seen, therefore, that the stripping of the leaves from the corn plant immediately cut off the food supply from the grain. By pulling fodder at the usual time the food supply is removed before the grains of corn are completely filled out, and the result is a reduction of the corn yield all the way from 10 to 30 per cent and a loss in feed value depending on the stage of maturity when the leaves were pulled. There is sufficient grass and other kinds of hay producing plants on most farms to enable one to provide the roughage needed without pulling fodder and there is still time to plant some of the quickly maturing forage crops, such as soybean, cowpeas, sudan grass and millet for winter feed and a dozen or more kinds later for next spring's and summers hay, roughage and pasturage.

Leading farmers, business and professional men of Mitchell county have appeared before the county commissioners to request that county agent work be continued.