

Fine Crowds Saw Probably the Best Agricultural Exhibits Ever Shown in South Carolina—Livestock Exhibits Good, but Not Numerous

I DO not think it is any exaggeration to say that the field-crop exhibits and the educational features of this fair were the best ever shown in the state. The work, the patience, and the good taste shown in the four individual farm displays, and in the more than a hundred booths of the county demonstration agents, boys' corn clubs and girls' canning clubs, were marvels of industry.

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I wish I had secured complete data as to the number of articles on exhibition in the various booths. One county showed 500 articles from its farms and gardens. The individual farm displays must have been as numerous. If South Carolina business is paralyzed by the boll weevil, it will not be because we cannot diversify, but because we will not. While every exhibit had some cotton in the picture, a stranger would never put South Carolina down as a cotton state, judging by this State Fair.

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The livestock exhibits were not as good as I have seen. There were fine animals and fine poultry, but at least a third of the stalls and pens were empty. The machinery exhibit was better than usual.

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One of the most remarkable exhibits was that made by the inmates of the State Hospital for the insane. When it was proposed to make one a doctor who was in a position to know said there were but two inmates who could help. It developed that 56 were found who helped make up the exhibit, and the effect of this kind of labor was almost marvelous: Every one of the 56 was benefited, two have been sent home cured, and many of the others are making a good recovery.

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Clemson, Winthrop, the State Department of Agriculture, the Cotton Seed Crushers, Fertilizer Importers, Coker's Pedigree Seed Farm and others all had exhibits of a practical educational value and their attendants were constantly on hand to explain processes and give information. A great many of the county exhibits had striking educational features, and the demonstrators were kept busy discussing them with the visitors.

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Perhaps not in its history has the financial end turned out better. The crowd on Thursday was estimated at 40,000. Wednesday's and Friday's were the biggest on record. The drawing card on Friday was a train of 14 cars with 900 girls from the Winthrop Training and Industrial College of South Carolina. They were detained at the corner of the Fair Grounds, and with Dr. Johnson at the head and many teachers and fathers of the girls along the line to keep it closed up, marched up the street with the band playing and the crowds cheering. They were the guests of the Fair Association, and were received by Governor and Mrs. Manning at the entrance to the Women's Building.

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On Wednesday there was an immense Harvest Jubilee Parade that surpassed anything ever attempted before in the state. The weather was ideal. The people were all in a good humor over the brighter prospects after the gloom of last year, and they celebrated to their heart's content without ever letting fun give way to license. Thursday morning and Friday morning cars from every county in the state were parked in front of many residences in Columbia.

E. W. D.

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Coöperative Buying Safer Than Merchandising

PROF. W. R. Camp sends the following thoughtful answer to a Progressive Farmer reader inquiring about starting a coöperative store:

"In reference to the formation of a coöperative supply store, I would say that I feel that you are proceeding on safe lines in not attempting to grant credit. At the same time I would suggest that it is very difficult to make a success of a coöperative mercantile business. A different and safer method would be to collect orders and only assemble those goods already ordered. The danger of a store is that stock will become stale and accumulate so as to make unnecessary idle capital on hand. Whether you organize a store for having a supply of goods on hand or not, these points should be borne in mind.

"As a help to you in organizing we are sending you a copy of Bulletin 225, in which there is a set of by-laws that may be adapted to your purposes. We also send a copy of the last Market Bulletin. The Office of Markets, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., has worked out some blank forms for purchasing goods collectively which you can obtain by writing them."

"Pick your cotton quickly and sell slowly," is made into a slogan by The Progressive Farmer. To this might be added the injunction to properly care for the cotton after it is picked and ginned. If you do not care to sell it at 12 cents, keep it out of the weather.—Williamston Enterprise.

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