

## The North Carolina State Fair.

Some Comments on Various Features of Interest—A Splendid Fruit Display—The Neglect of the Live Stock Industry—Too Many Doubtful "Amusements" and Too Few Educational Features.

**W**E HOPE in an early issue to have reports covering various features of the North Carolina State Fair which was held at Raleigh last week, but owing to the little time we have, we shall, this week, attempt only to give a few notes on some features of the fair which seem worthy of mention.

In the first place, then, it is worth while to say that the agricultural exhibit at the fair was highly creditable and splendidly illustrated the agricultural possibilities of the State. This exhibit is generally pronounced the best ever seen in Raleigh, and much interest was taken in it by those in attendance. The horticultural exhibition deserves especial mention, as it would be hard to find anywhere a finer exhibit of apples than that prepared by the State Department of Agriculture. The Haywood County fruit exhibit was also good, and some splendid Japanese persimmons from the eastern part of the State showed conclusively what North Carolina could do in raising this fine fruit. Indeed, the possibilities of this State for fruit growing are not yet half appreciated. It seems to us that, from the very necessity of natural conditions, the western part of North Carolina is bound to become one of the leading fruit growing sections of the whole country; and the men who are first in the business are bound to make good money if their work is carried on in the right way.

The general display of farm products was also good and the exhibits of corn and cotton proved that North Carolina breeders are quite capable of developing these crops to a higher standard than we are now familiar with.

There was the usual display of farm machinery, and the interest taken in it was prophetic of the better farming which we believe is coming.

The poultry exhibit was large and representative, and we hope to have it treated more in detail in a later issue.

The live stock exhibits, were, however, neither large nor, taken as a whole, of good quality. While some fine animals were shown, most of the classes were poor, and in only one or two breeds was there any competition worth speaking of. The only exhibits, we believe, from outside the State were by the Wheeler Homestead, of Kankona, N. Y., which exhibited some fine Berkshire swine and some good Devon cattle, and the Spring Dale Farm, of Farmville, Va., which showed some good-looking Guernseys. There were some pretty good Herefords, too, and in the swine classes some creditable Duroc-Jerseys and some fine Berkshires. Aside from these, the quality of the exhibits was not at all what one expects to find at a State fair. Some of the exhibitors evidently brought their animals without any preparation at all to the show ring, and an animal that is poorly groomed and not in very good flesh cannot be expected to show up to advantage. While excessive pampering of breeding animals is always inadvisable, stockmen should learn that no animal will show up its real merits unless it is in good condition.

It is, however, not a matter to wonder at that there should have been no more live stock on the fair ground. The provisions for taking care of them are far from being creditable to the State Fair and the

stock judging went on in the rear of the cheap side-shows which occupied the best part of the fair ground with only three or four persons besides the judges and the exhibitors taking any interest in it or thinking anything about it. Such arrangements as this are not conducive to the development of a State Fair which can answer the educational purposes for which a fair is supposed to be established.

This, indeed, is the serious criticism to be brought against the fair management—a sad lack of perspective as to the true value of things and of the great importance of the work which the State Fair might do in developing the agricultural interests of the whole Commonwealth. No one supposes for a moment that all amusements should be barred from the fair ground or that it is worth while to make special efforts to entertain those that attend them, but when things are so arrang-

ed that there are a thousand people who see only cheap and vulgar side-shows to every one who knows anything about the judging of the live stock—which should be one of the most important features of the fair—one cannot help feeling that there is some misunderstanding of the real purpose a State fair should serve.

This is not written with any desire to criticize or find fault unduly. It is the general testimony of those who have visited the State Fair for several seasons that it is gradually improving; but we cannot help hoping that before another fair season comes about there will be better arrangements provided for those who wish to exhibit live stock, larger premiums given, more attention paid to the convenience of the breeders and of those who wish to see the stock, more judges provided and a better place given them in which to do their work. It will not do to say that the public will take no interest in this work, because in some fairs in the Northwest great amphitheatres are provided for the stock judging and people go by the thousands to see the work done and to learn something of the comparative merits of the different animals shown.

## Notes From the Virginia State Fair.

Great Progress Along Agricultural Lines—Increased Use of Improved Machinery—A Wonderful Horticultural Development.

**T**HE WRITER was asked to help took the first prize for the measure the acre of corn that best acre of lowland corn at the Virginia State Fair. This acre of corn made 147 bushels and 42 pounds and in a field of corn of 70 acres that at last cultivation made 55 bushels to the acre, and this year will probably average a better crop. It is worthy of mention to note that this farm has been kept in a high state of cultivation for over two centuries, not by the use of commercial fertilizers but by a judicious system of farming, by the repeated applications of barnyard manure and by the systematic sowing of clover.

It is gratifying to note that the agricultural exhibits at the fair along general lines realized the expectations of the large number of visitors who attended the fair each day of the meeting.

The agricultural implement exhibits were on such a scale as to justify the belief that the Virginia farmers realize the fact that labor-saving machinery is more profitable to use these days than hand labor.

At no time during the fair was there a time when there was not a good sprinkling of farmers who were eagerly watching or examining the working of these labor-saving machines, and they were so favorably impressed (in many instances, at least) that they backed their judgment by giving orders for some of these machines. One implement house told the writer that the farmers had given them more orders during the fair week than ever before at any fair.

The binder, the mower, the corn harvester, the wheat drill, the disk harrow, the peanut harvester, the potato planter and digger, the gasoline engine, the corn husker and shredder have all become established facts on the Virginia farm along with many other improved implements too numerous to mention. And this means improved conditions.

The horticultural exhibit, in charge of Prof. W. N. Irwin, of the United States Agricultural Department, was well worth the attention of any one who was interested in fruit. The exhibit was well repre-

sented in all the varieties of Virginia fruit and attracted those who made any specialty whatever of fruit growing.

The work of the Virginia Horticultural Society and the Virginia Packing Association has been of untold benefit to the Virginia fruit growers who are now reaping the benefit of the arduous labors of the officers of these associations.

Notable among the exhibits are those of Hon. Geo. E. Murrell, former president of the Virginia State Horticultural Society. For many years Mr. Murrell has spared no effort to bring fruit before the eyes of the public and to exemplify at his orchards at Fontella, Va., that if the proper methods are pursued the fruits from the Old Dominion will compare favorably with those from any other State in the Union.

J. M. BELL.



SOMETHING THAT OUGHT TO BE STOPPED.

The Richmond Christian Advocate which is waging a very proper warfare against the admission of gambling devices to the Virginia State Fair, gives point to its argument by publishing this snapshot of a group of boys and girls engaged in one of the games of chance. Gambling and

immoral shows have been the bane of our Southern fairs, and wherever they are found, an immediate protest to the fair authorities ought to be made.

## TWO WOMEN

These women start to wash their cream separators. The upper woman has a simple, sanitary Sharples Dairy Tubular Separator—with nothing inside the bowl but the tiny piece here shown in the dish pan—and washes the entire bowl in two minutes.

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