

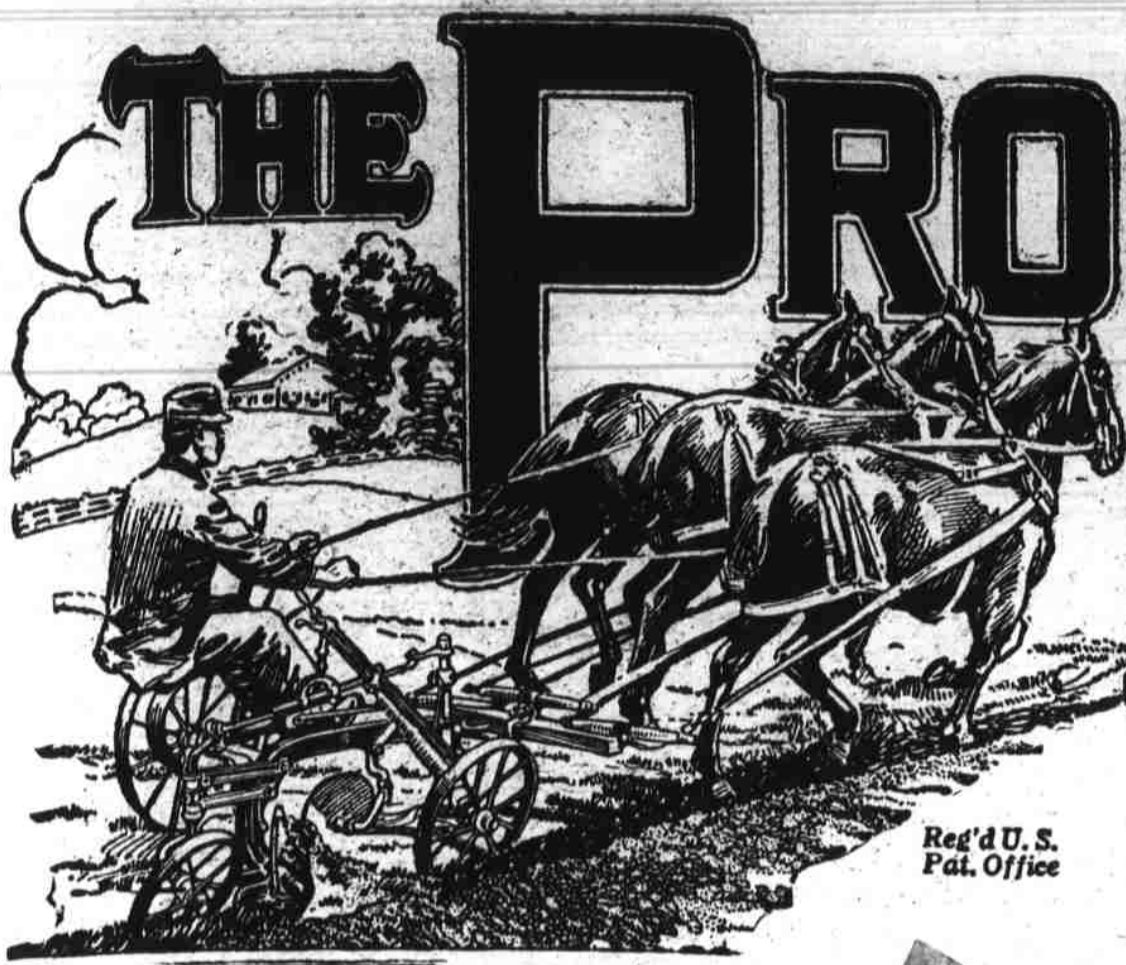
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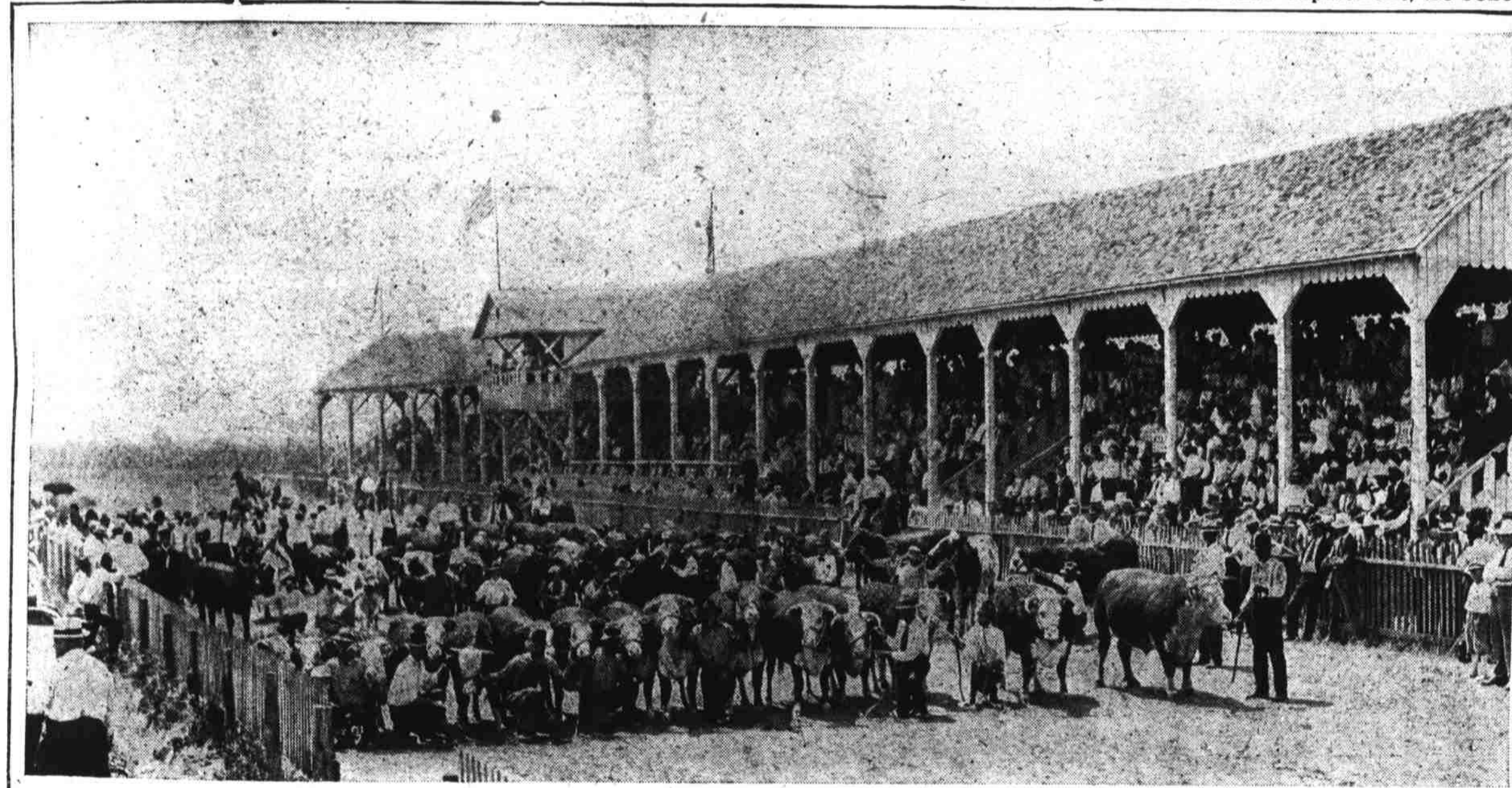
SALESDAY, MAY 11, 1918

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The Fair: A School for Rural People Old and Young

There comes a time in the lives of men and women when they no longer go to school, using the term "school" as it is usually understood. But there never comes a time in the life of any person when he or she is too old to learn.

Perhaps the greatest defect of state and county fairs is that as a rule no explanation is given as to why awards are made. If a competent man were placed in every department to explain the points of excellence of the prize-winning exhibit in that department, the benefits



LIVESTOCK PARADE AT A COUNTY FAIR

—Courtesy Hon. Jewell Mayes, Jefferson City, Mo.

Fairs in their true sense are "schools" for rural people of all ages—in other words, an experience meeting or a common pooling of knowledge and experience about farm and home subjects. Therefore a farmer who attends a fair that has been worked out along right lines cannot help but be benefitted.

As an educational agent, we believe the community fair is now rather more effective than the county fair or state fair. It is true that state and county fairs may show better arrangement of exhibits and even livestock and produce of better quality. But at many of these larger fairs there is so much to see and the amusement and recreative features have been emphasized at the expense of educational features. The community fair, on the other hand, has fewer exhibits; there are no side shows to distract one's attention; and the points of merit and demerit of each exhibit are explained by the judges so that the fair becomes a thing of real educational worth. Moreover, a farmer who has attended a community fair for several years will be in a position to get more out of a state and county fair, equipped as he will be with his knowledge of what constitutes quality in exhibits.

would be almost inestimable.

Then, too, all exhibits should be adequately labeled in clear, strong type. For example, if exhibitors of different breeds of hogs, cattle, poultry, horses, etc., or of different varieties of plants and crops would properly label their exhibits, farmers would learn much regarding the quality and characteristics of each, regardless of whether any judge were present or not.

By laying emphasis on the community fair, we do not mean to discourage attendance at state and county fairs, for the larger fairs should be adequately patronized and their larger premium lists should arouse the keenest competition. But we make our plea for two things: (1) for making these larger fairs more truly educational; and (2) for developing a community fair in every progressive neighborhood.

The articles in this week's Progressive Farmer should be of great service to fair promoters and fair exhibitors, but to get more value from the issue, it should not only be read now but retained for reference next fall.

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