



FAIR AND MORE PROSPEROUS. If the people of North Carolina have bowed their heads to financial depression there was no sign of it at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh last week. Governor Gardner and his Fair committee did a constructive piece of work in their management and promotion of the great Live-at-Home extravaganza and the returning visitor from the Fair wonders at the energy and money expended by a State, popularly verging on poverty, as well as the enthusiastic numbers who attended the Fair and spent their means on the midway. Decrease in the amount of money available seems to have no effect on the spending disposition of the people and this year's midway showed an apparently thriving crowd with no tendency to hang morosely around, gazing without spending. A khaki booth, glorifying the lucky power of the dime, kept a sizable crowd about it all hours and even the motordrome, showed no decrease in patronage when the bronze faced veteran of the motorcycle limbered up his machine and filled the air with staccato backfiring.

FREE ENTERTAINMENT, which paradoxically demanded a fee of twenty-five cents for admittance, drew a crowd that must have gone over five thousand in the main grandstand on Thursday night. The entertainment after all, was free, we suppose, the privilege of sitting on a seat if you could find one being the only thing that was charged for. This gives an interesting thought for the next time you pay to see a movie—you are paying for the seat and the entertainment is free. A new feature of this year's free entertainment is a musical review, which queerly enough did not purport to have come "straight from a six months run on Broadway." The novelty of the thing however was charming. A hardwood floor on the race track, chorus girls, soloists, tires and tap dancers doing their acts under the sky with a portable stage set up on the grass as a back ground for the production, amplifiers carrying the voices of the performers to the outmost bounds of a crowd that filled the grandstand and overflowed on the clay hills round about, some of whom were as much as a hundred yards from the stage, and all filled with a sense of economy as they viewed the "free" entertainment. All the earmarks of the city review were on hand, the tall and rhythmic chorus, the tuxedoed trio with their minor chords and even the suave, brown clad master of ceremonies who directed the applause of the audience with the utmost tact and impartiality.

THE EXHIBIT HALLS this year seem to have justified the renewal of the Fair. Every available stall seemed to be occupied and the qual-

ity of the exhibits was excellent in every way. The observer cannot help but feel a surge of pride in a State which can produce such excellent products of every kind, nor can he help wondering, if he is a farmer, whether he has done his best in the products of his own land. An interesting feature of the exhibits is the fact that more than ever before, they come from communities, cooperating in striving for agricultural progress. A few years ago most of the exhibits bore the name of this or that farm but this year the trademark of communities, living and working together for the progress of all, graces some of the finest booths. This is significant in that it shows the advance of the cooperative work among the farmers of the State. Co-operative study of farming conditions and methods, cooperative improvement in methods of cultivation and co-operative marketing—in these lies the secret of agricultural progress.

Another interesting sign for the times in farming circles was the machinery shed, where the newest and most complex examples of farming machinery were on display. Tractor farming is making a strong bid for the sanction of both large and small farmers. A steady increase has been shown in the purchase and use of tractors and many agricultural authorities are giving their sanction to the idea that in this is found the key to cheaper farming of the future. There are still many farmers who look askance at the big wheels of the tractor and hold tenaciously that it can never replace the mule and plow. With many farmers it has already replaced the mule however and wherever mechanical power has advanced so far it has generally proved an increase in power, making for a larger production at less cost.

THE OLD FAIR GAME. As is ever the case the midway still holds the boisterous, pushing, laughing crowd of the fair. Thursday night's crowd seemed to have just thronged down out of some stadium. They were unusually boisterous, unusually well-dressed and enthusiastic exponents of the "what next" spirit. At a musical comedy under canvas on the midway, the mistress of ceremonies, finding herself faced with an eager group of college boys, appealed for their quiet attention, assuring them that they had often played before college audiences and that the boys had always enjoyed the show,

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whereupon her listeners cheered thunderously. Nobody seems to mind eating publicly at a fair. Richly dressed girls saunter down the midway eating from cups streaming with a sickly concoction of weak milk and vanilla, called frozen custard. In no other setting in America do you find the spirit of abandon and good will that you do here. Strangers shove, bump and ridicule each other, to be shoved, bumped and ridiculed good naturedly in return. Boys talk loudly to girls they have never seen before and do not offend them. People dive into the tents advertising sensations, find them a fake and emerge without the disgust that would attend being cheated anywhere else. But there is always the ill-matured pug, who flares up when his girl is tickled on the neck by a feathery wand in the hands of some reveler. There are quick mutterings, dark threats, retreating verbal shots and then the ruffled surface of the midway is quiet again.

THIS WAR down in Brazil is to all appearances the most vigorously contested war in history. Both sides seem to be cutting down on fighting and concentrating on claiming victories. Each days paper comes out with claims, equally valid as far as American news readers are concerned, that the Revolutionary or Federal troops, according to who is instituting the claim, have gained a tremendous and significant victory. This makes it a great hardship on newspaper readers, as they try to get the truth. We suggest a regular time for the sending in of claims by the publicity agents of each force and a claims committee, composed of Elsie Robinson, Royal S. Copeland and Will Rogers, who will sift the reports and report to the American public every day.

It is estimated that North Carolina will receive this year for her cotton crop, around forty million dollars. To put under this year's crop she bought 1,293,573 tons of fertilizer, at an aggregate cost of thirty-six million dollars. This tremen-

dous sum is divided almost entirely between Chile for nitrates, Germany for potash and Tennessee and Florida for phosphates. Every farmer will next year be interested in cutting down this bill. With many it will be an absolute necessity. Home mixing will no doubt be resorted to in many cases and the lucky farmers are those who are growing crops that will restore the nitrate to the soil and thus in some measure relieve the necessity of restoring them by means of expensive, commercial fertilizers. The Darlington section of South Carolina reports three farmers who were unable to get any fertilizer whatsoever and nevertheless reaped a bumper crop this fall. This was attributed to the perfect crop year but much credit is also due to the fact that crop rotation had built up the soil for a number of years.

Hoke County stands fourth in the State in the percentage of increase in the farms from 1920 to 1930. This year there are 1,886 farms in Hoke County. This is an increase

over 1920 of 26.1 per cent. Only Nash, Lincoln and Cleveland counties are above Hoke County in this respect. The highest percentage increase was in Nash County, 30.9 per cent.

ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR TO HAVE SPECIAL PROGRAM

The young people of Antioch Christian Endeavor will render a program Sunday morning, October 26, at eleven o'clock, in place of the regular preaching service.

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