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TWO SPLENDID LETTERS

RECENTLY ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER SELLS



I AM in receipt of your circular letter No. 896 on Indian Fairs and I have read it with care and with the deepest interest.

Being an Indian woman and a member of a family of exhibitors at white man's fairs, the first paragraph on page three of your letter, particularly, appeals to me.

My mother, Mrs. Marie Renville-Bottineau, deceased, my sister, Mrs. Lillian Bottineau-Whitney, now living at Becker, Minnesota, and I, for a number of years, were exhibitors at the Minnesota State Fair, held every year since eighteen hundred seventy odd, at Hamline, Minnesota.

My mother's exhibits at the fair, and for which she was awarded first and second premiums, consisted of four classes in "Textile Fabrics" division—quilt designs, quilts, quilting, and etching embroideries. My sister's exhibits, and for which she was awarded premiums, consisted of bread, rolls, cakes, jellies, and preserves.

My exhibits consisted in laces, in cotton, silk, wool, and linen, both crocheted and knit, knit articles of many kinds, including golf hose, men's and women's hose in both cotton and wool, and wool mittens, both fancy and plain, for men, women, and children. Three exhibits in a class of work known as "darned net"—in which were used two original designs—brought first, second and third premiums. A painting in oil in a class calling for a "marine" brought first premium, and a collection of twelve paintings third premium.

One year the premium money I received amounted to twenty-five dollars, no one premium amounting to more than four dollars.

I fully appreciate the enthusiasm and the rivalry that can be aroused between women and children by showing at the fairs not only their native products and the products of the farm yard, but also as products of their own industry—the laces, embroideries, paintings and the many arts and crafts that are pursued by the white women. I know that the In-