

WILLAMETTE FARMER.

\$2.50 per Year.

SALEM, OREGON, OCTOBER 20, 1876.

Volume VIII—Number 36.

STATE FAIR.

There was a threat of rain in the skies for the week previous to the opening of the Fair, and the breath of wind that prevailed was much of the time from the south, all of which caused apprehension that a stormy week was about to follow, and that would have been a misfortune the State Agricultural Society could not have encountered without great embarrassment, after having constructed improvements, at a cost of \$8,000, in anticipation of the proceeds of the State Fair; but there were two things that gave encouragement: the barometer all the while kept rising and that of itself was almost a guarantee of pleasant weather; also there was no wind more than the gentlest movement of the air, and rain always comes on the strong wings of the south wind.

As it resulted we have never known a more temperate and delightful week for holding the State Fair. The rain that fell so copiously two weeks before had freshened the grasses and allayed the almost impalpable dust, ground under the wheels of heavy wagons in all the roads; the weather was so warm that if the sun had shone all day it would have been almost intolerable to the stifled throngs, but instead Nature kindly furnish a veil of cloud that hung in space throughout the livelong week.

All things in Nature conspired to favor the multitude of fair goers and only one thing was wanting to have made the late Fair the most successful of all in the history of the Society—the scarcity of money was apparent in every direction; the number in attendance was less than last year, and the general expenditure of cash showed that our people had become aware that prudence was a matter of necessity, and yet all seemed to enjoy themselves and while money was not squandered, still it was employed freely enough to insure a general good time to pleasure seekers, and to suitably reward those who were catering to the wants or the pleasures of the thousands in attendance.

The receipts of the Society, though considerably less than in 1875, were more than ever known in previous years. When we bear in mind the difference in circumstances and the change in prospects, we can only feel surprise that the attendance was so large and the receipts so encouraging. Last year, immediately after an abundant and satisfactory harvest, wheat rose to fully a dollar a bushel and money was abundant so that all the farming community felt a degree of substantial prosperity that gave zest as well as opportunity for a full opportunity for a full and wholesome enjoyment of the State Fair week. Of course the prosperity of the farmers carried with it lively trade in all branches of business, and the consequence was a large attendance and most successful fair.

There is no State in the Union where the holding of the Annual Fair constitutes a full week of so general holiday as prevails in Oregon, and it is to be hoped that the custom inaugurated in early days, and so happily maintained to the present, will be perpetuated and handed down through all the future. One circumstance that tends to insure that such will be the case is found in the fact that the State Agricultural Society owns so large a tract of land close to the State Capital, which contains spacious groves that grow more delightful each year, where tens of thousands can make pleasant camping homes, while the Society is constantly making improvements that add to the comfort and permanence of the grounds. In the course of a few years we may look for substantial buildings to be erected that will afford ample accommodation for the whole exhibit, and give comfort to those who shall attend. It is desirable to fully sustain the popular interest, as well for the present good certain to result from competition in production and manufactures and the annual exposition of the advancement made as a cause for emulation, as to perpetuate the custom which is so peculiar to our State and so genial and wholesome in its results, and leave its kindly influence as a pleasant tradition and immortal usage for the observance of our children through all the future.

It is an interesting study to watch the procession of teams come thronging from every direction, raising a cloud of dust on every road. Here comes the homely farm wagon, freighted with the week's provender and supplies, and likely enough the whole family from babe to sire is aboard; next a mere stylish turn-out is seen, showing that prosperity has crowned the labors of the husbandman. All are intent on having a good time

and come with disposition to make the best of whatever savors of discomfort. The teams vary from the solid horses of all work that turn the furrow and wear the steady gait of the sober farm-horse, to the gay and spanking pair of roadsters that will wear the blue token, before the week is over, showing that they have won the prize for excellence.

Every where we see fine horses and recognize that each year shows improvement in connection with the breeding of good horses of all kinds. Crowding to the fair we see droves of thoroughbred cattle, sheep and goats as well as excellent grades. Oregon shows great gain in good stock and the time will come when our best cattle and horses will be sent for to strengthen eastern herds. The enterprise and efforts of good breeders we fear meet less reward than they actually deserve. Wagons and drays loaded with all things usable, eatable, wearable and imaginable pass in at the great gate during Monday and Tuesday, as the entry books are open until Tuesday evening. The two first are forming days, when chaos and confusion are gradually reduced to form and order; Wednesday sees the organization complete and then the Fair may be said to really commence.

Then the Babel of sounds might confuse any man in his senses, for the shows and bazaars have their clamorous announcers, their clanging and brazen music, their busy salesmen, while the throng of teams and crowds of humanity outside convey the idea that thousands are wandering about with purposeless aim, not knowing what is to be done next. In the Pavilion and other buildings the masses crush together and become immovable, friends meet to be pushed apart, and the whole scene forms a succession of pictures and expositions of human nature that keep the student of that science employed most intently. And by-the-by, that multitude is not at innocence and virtue by any means, for in addition of the rather ample supply of human depravity we have at home Fair Week invariably brings from other lands a supply of expert rascals and thieves who play on the credulity or steal the purses of unsuspecting Webfeet.

One who has not visited the State Fair cannot imagine the liveliness of the scene, with its revolving swings, huge circus bills, and wonderful signs and pictures of fat women, big oxen, fossil bones, dwarfs, wild animals, museums and other things too numerous to name, gazed at by a wandering mass of humanity gathered from all nations, including Warm Springs Indians that have crossed the Cascades by the Minto Trail, and Indian families from Grand Ronde Agency who come in civilized shape with their own teams and comfortable outfit.

IN THE PAVILION.

Entering the front door of the main Pavilion we find the center given up to sewing machines, organs and the like, while the walls are hung with pictures and art and fancy work. On the right, near the door is the photographic display of Buchtel & Stolte, of which the twin Moore's sisters, crayoned, and the little girls in water colors strike one as especially artistic. On the left is a fancy bazaar, with goods for sale, drawing a crowd of purchasers that block the way and constitute a first class nuisance which we trust will not occur again, as the passage ought not to be obstructed. Following down the right hand side we see excellent press work from the job office of Redington & Rice Salem, a cabinet of minerals from Wood's museum, specimens of taxidermy. At the further corner are pencil drawings, those of Mrs. C. S. Woodworth of Salem taking rank as the best collection, the most charming of which is a cherub face that attracts all who look. This collection is very creditable to our fair townswomen. Miss Heaton of Portland has the blue ribbon on a small oval drawing of a section of trees, with hums, nest and birds, that shows great taste as well as skill. The same lady has in another place a pen picture that is admirable. Miss Heckleman's "Easter Morning," in water colors, is in this corner and shows skill in that line. Mr. Stagger, of Salem, has lent the Society the use of several pieces of statuary that add a pleasing feature to the center of this room, though not entered for any prize.

On the east wall, to the left, are oil paintings and other pictures that show well, though some of them are old visitors at the State Fair. Three oil paintings are new here and worthy of especial notice as showing decided talent in a Salem lad, Clyde Cooke, son of Mr. Joseph Cooke. His painting of Mt. Hood possesses real merit and was taken from nature, the point of view being above Portland, with the river in the fore-

ground. The other paintings by the same young artist possess brighter tints and are very pleasing. We do not see why, with growth of years and cultivated taste, our young friend may not deserve and win a name and remuneration in the fields of art, and he certainly shows more genius than has ever been manifested by a native Oregon artist, though still quite young in years.

Following down the east side we recognize as especially noteworthy a few beautiful things, which we name without intending any disparagement to many others. In this bird's-eye view we cannot name all things that are worthy, which we leave for the premium list to tell. Fancy work in imitation of coral, exhibited by Mrs. Taylor, is very handsome; Mrs. Henry Brown has a beautiful basket of bead flowers. Mrs. Louis Rau, of Portland, shows in wax work a basket of violets and a pot of fuchsias so perfect that when placed among natural flowers the fraud was not discovered and they bear the blue ribbon very deservedly. Mrs. Howard comes in second on very beautiful wax flowers.

Mrs. M. R. Andrews, of Portland, shows in this vicinity her handiwork in preserving nature. One of the most beautiful things imaginable is this case of skeleton leaves, bleached white, showing perfect taste and most delicate manipulation. It is not easy to describe the beauty of this work, or to do justice to her herbarium, a volume of pressed leaves, ferns, mosses and grasses arranged and grouped with taste, the natural colors of the foliage being often perfectly preserved. The two articles we here mention were among the most beautiful things in the Pavilion, and are specimens of a graceful art that it seems to us might be used to adorn many homes, even though every one may not have the exquisite taste that is so evidently possessed by Mrs. Andrews.

AMONG THE FLOWERS.

Leaving the north front of the Pavilion we enter the main building, which extends from east to west, the western end of which is devoted to flowers, shrubs, trees and plants. In the very centre is a fountain which throws up a slender thread of stream that plashes very pleasantly among the callulites that cluster in the basin below, near it, with a hanging basket of beautiful drooping vines above it, is a parlor aquarium from the residence of Mr. Geo. Holman, loaned to add to the interest of the scene and still further on is another made by Dr. Chase, which stands in pleasing contrast to the flowers and plants that crowd around and overshadow them. As we turn in among the plants the first collection we meet is that of Mrs. Erb, an amateur florist of Salem, who has a large and beautiful collection of flowers, a rustic stand that contains 26 varieties of plants, that ornament the scene; she has beautiful fuchsias and geraniums, especially, and her plants show careful culture.

On the same side we find the rich display of our friend Mr. Henry Miller, of Portland, who exhibits 40 varieties of hardy evergreens, shrubs and trees, many of which are newly introduced and deserve to be cultivated in our yards and gardens. Mr. Miller has a choice variety of foliage plants, some beautiful climbers, various kinds of cacti, also a century plant 15 years old, and the tall canes, that look out of place in our climate, are specimens of the mambou. Mr. Miller has his gardens and hot houses at the head of Jefferson street in the city of Portland, and all who wish to procure evergreens, trees, shrubs or choice flowers can order of him with confidence of receiving good treatment.

Across the way Lewis Pfunder, also of Portland, has a fine assortment of trees, plants and flowers, with a dracaena or drag-on tree, that attracts attention, and is very ornamental. His premises show fine taste in bouquets and floral ornaments. Mrs. Geo. Cook of Salem, has also a small but choice selection of flowers and attracts especial admiration for a fine specimen of oleander.

Vick's premiums call out many choice offerings of cut flowers, and are grouped on a stand in the centre of the room. The first prize is awarded Mrs. Dodson, of Polk county, for a really splendid collection; Mrs. Florence Garrison receives the second prize; and Mrs. Jacob Smith the third.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

We leave the east end of the middle hall of the Pavilion, where the ladies' display of needle work is arranged and enter the south wing, devoted to fruits and vegetables. On the east side we find a large display from the market garden of W. H. Adair, near

Salem, who shows a general assortment of vegetables and small fruits.

Next comes Mr. J. B. Dimick from near Hubbard, in Marion county, whose specialty is potatoes raised on Beaver-dam land, of which he has abundance. Lt. Dimick makes a specialty of cultivating the best kinds of potatoes to sell for seedling. He shows 30 varieties of these invaluable tubers and takes pains to procure the best and newest varieties that he may be fully up to the times, which he is. Here you see such late varieties as Brownwell's Beauty, Eureka, and Snowflake, that are newly introduced from abroad and do well in Oregon, as do such kinds as Early Paragon, Extra Early Vermont, Early Chile. Lt. Dimick informs us that not a single potato in his collection grew from seed planted until the 9th of last June.

Mrs. Hegely of North Salem, shows a fine variety of vegetables, but we could find no one to represent the same.

Our friend E. L. DeLashmut of Dallas, Polk county, makes an excellent showing of vegetables, especially calling attention to the Early Rose family as follows: Brownwell's Beauty, Extra Early Vermont, Burbank's Seedling, and Early Ohio, all springing from the seed of the famous Early Rose. Mr. DeLashmut shows Irish Cup potatoes of which 8 hills yielded 100 lbs of tubers. He has also a squash of excellent character that he names the Chadwick, because that gentleman furnished him the seed from a squash said to be two years old. Mr. DeLashmut also shows the premium cauliflower and besides many fine things two "mammoth" squashes, whose respective weight is 153 and 177 pounds.

P. M. Rynearson, from Clackamas, shows a good assortment of vegetables, especially onions, some immense "Marrow" squashes, corn that he says yielded 100 bushels to the acre; carrots that yielded over 1100 bushel; onions over 800 bushels, and ruta bagas that averaged over 11 lbs the field over. Mr. Rynearson certainly makes a good showing.

In the south-east corner there is a splendid showing of fruits dried in the Plummer's machine, one of which was outside the Pavilion in view. Mr. Plummer had no competition but he evidently deserved the awards of merit given him by the society, for his fruit was excellent.

In the south-west corner there was a fine display of Oregon raised hops, in which line there was great competition which will appear when we publish the premium list.

The display of grain was excellent and quite large, and here too we must wait until we can publish the list of premiums, as it was not possible to learn all the exhibitors. Mr. Prottymann showed a small quantity of his 90 day spring wheat, from the same lot raised in 1875, part of which went to Philadelphia and received a medal for excellence.

On the west side was arranged quite a good exhibit of dried fruits, canned and preserved fruits, jellies, cakes, etc., which we cannot now itemize, but will name in the list of premiums.

We must not omit to notice the excellent corn exhibited by Mr. Jos. Hamilton of Linn county, which has matured early and is excellent grain from which good meal should be made.

Through the centre of the south Pavilion was the exhibit of fruits, which was very fine though not so extensive as usual. Here, too, we were baffled by not being able to learn all the exhibitors.

Mr. Shipley, of Oswego, makes the best showing of grapes, which was very fine for the season.

S. Simon, of East Portland, has a fine collection of foreign grapes, some of which are new to our State.

Mr. Seth Luelling, of Milwaukie, has a most excellent collection of apples, pears and some other fruits and Mr. Lambert of the same locality, has a good exhibit in that line. Probably no orchardists in Oregon can excel them in that special field. Here again we shall have to refer to the premium list, when published, for particulars.

G. W. Walling & Son, of Oswego, show, in addition to a fair assortment of green fruits, a seedling apple named the Hays—for a wonder not named after the presidential candidate either, that is said to be good and a slate keeper. They have dried blackberries, d'Agon and Italian prunes, late peach plums, pears, cherries all dried and making an excellent product, and a variety of fruits in jars. They also show green chestnuts in the bar.

Mr. G. J. Tootley, of Vancouver shows six varieties of potatoes and a plate of seedling late peaches, very fine fruit, on which he takes both first and second premiums.

AMONG THE MACHINERY.

Every day of the Fair, early and late, groups of earnest farmers could be seen looking through the long string of machinery, wagons, etc., under the sheds west of the Pavilion, and judging carefully of the merits of the respective exhibits. Just at the western gate we find Hawley Dodd & Co. with three portable engines, steam Canton Pitts thresher, an Elwood Harvester, Buckeye Mower and Reaper, three French burr farm mills, a steam cutter and 2 cider mills, all of which machinery is in active motion, driven by a portable engine. Mr. Dodd is busy, here there and everywhere, claiming a fair show of attention and his proportion of the distribution of blue ribbons.

T. CUNNINGHAM & CO.

of Salem, come next in order, and Mr. C also seems almost ubiquitous. He has a good showing of the Garden City Plows, that wear their blue favors quite proudly. This firm takes \$20 special premium of a plowing match with sulks, also 1st premium on Newton Wagon, and they have the usual showing of cultivators, mowers, reapers, seeders and other machines. We learn from Messrs. Linforth, Kellogg & Co., of Portland, that Cunningham & Co. are to succeed that firm in that city, and will hereafter conduct the business established by them there.

KNAPP BURRELL & CO.

Claim the 1st premium on the Evans Sulky Plow, a diploma on the Pacific Fanning Mill, 1st premium on the Champion Light Mower and have many other articles in sight that command great attention from all observers. The Evans Sulky Plow is newly introduced by them and judging from the work done in the plowing match Wednesday morning it is a valuable plow. At the depth worked it seemed equal to any plow ever brought to Oregon.

THE NORTH WEST S. S. & C. COMPANY,

Represented by our friend Mr. T. J. Matlock, was well represented on the ground by good machinery, and bore off the 1st premium for the Wheeler No. 6, combined reaper and mower, and also took 1st premiums for Burdicks Independent Reaper and Coits' lock-lever, sulky hay rake.

Mr. A. Prescott, of Salem, has the first premium for his wooden pumps, which we know to be excellent, because we have one in use in a well 45 feet deep and can pump a bucket of water from that depth in five easy strokes.

Thomas Holman shows the Western Fanning Mill, Salem made and his own invention, which takes a premium.

T. H. Drury, of Westport, down the Columbia river, shows a rotary wheat winnowing and cleaner, not entered for a premium. It does excellent work.

Wm. Ellis, of Eugene, also shows a rotary separator that takes a 2d premium, and he has on exhibition a middlings purifier of his own invention that is said to equal in operation the best in use.

J. Sherrill, of Harrisburg, has a cultivator and broadcast sower combined, of Oregon invention.

Frank Wood, of Albany, takes the 1st premium on the well-known steam-man drill, also on his Oregon made gang plow, and for 5000 lbs of fine gold, mined on Greenhorn bar in the Santiam river.

C. Moskberger has an honest made firm wagon, slick and not spotted, that was pronounced first class work.

C. W. Bowie, of Salem, claims the first premium for his Oregon made express wagon and also for his double carriage. While Kelly & Underwood come in second on the same articles. The workmanship of these vehicles was good enough for any country.

Hiram Wagon, of Spring Valley, Polk county, has a farm gate made to turn back in two halves when a cord is pulled. This gate can be made at a cost of \$10, and certainly can be made to work where any such contrivance is needed. The gate is opened and closed by the same appliance, and no great force is required to roll it back one quarter revolution, which is all that is needed.

IN MECHANICS HALL.

In the new building west of the main Pavilion we found as follows: A fine display of furniture from the Oregon Furniture Mfg. Co., of Portland; some improvements in harness; a variety of wooden ware from the Oregon Wooden Ware Co., Oregon City; cloth and osseoline from the Oregon City Mill; samples of choice wool from W. F. Newby, of McMinnville; a great variety of Oregon woods from A. F. Miller, Oregon

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