



No Little Task

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The Ladies' Toggery

MARY BARTELS, Prop.

County Fair Factor in Development

By Hake Smith, Western Development Agent, G. N. Ry.

"Do not overlook the county fairs. They form the pivot in the development of the Northwestern states agriculturally. They are the great clearing houses for the big land products and live stock shows as well as all state fairs."

This is the keynote which Louis W. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway has sounded and which will be taken up with a vim when the Northwest Development League meets in Seattle in June. Among the benefits to be derived from the county fairs of the seven Northwestern states, Mr. Hill sums up epigrammatically, as follows:

"1. They start many persons exhibiting who would never think of making exhibits at the state fair.

"2. They bring the fair sufficiently near so that all may attend.

"3. They educate the farmers in attendance along the lines of their own greatest needs.

"4. They stimulate effort in the direction of highest excellence.

"5. They tend greatly to the building up of the State Fair, both in regard to attendance and exhibits. Because of these benefits the small fair is well worthy of the support of the state and of all actively engaged in business in the communities in which they are held." Mr. Hill further says:

"One reason why many farmers do not exhibit at a state or other large fair is the apparent hopelessness of ever winning a prize, because of the extent of the competition, coming as it does from so wide an area, but when the area is limited as it would be in the case of a county fair or even of a fair more local than a county fair, the farmer feels that he is competing against one of his own class, and, therefore, when he is the possessor of a product that he believes to be superior, he is encouraged to exhibit the same. This he can do with little or no expense in placing the article on exhibition, hence if he does not win he does not feel the pinch of financial loss as he would had he exhibited at the State Fair. In this way hundreds and thousands would be led to exhibit who never would have done so but for the opportunity to exhibit at the small fair.

"The location of the smaller fair makes it easily possible for many a farmer to attend, who may not be able, in the meantime, to afford the expense incurred in journeying to the State Fair and of maintenance while there. Such men are content in the absence of the smaller fair to stay at home and therefore they miss the benefits in educational lines that fairs furnish so effectively by way of ocular demonstration. He is encouraged to go to the smaller fair because he knows many of his acquaintances will be there whom he can meet and he has friends in the town who are glad to care for him, it may be, during his stay at the fair.

"Such fairs are highly educational, as indeed all fairs are. The farmer may have concluded that a certain product which he grows is about as good as can be produced with that line. As long as he stays at home he becomes no wiser with reference to shortcomings in his work. When he goes to the fair and puts that product on exhibition, he finds to his astonishment that half a dozen others are ahead of him in the competition. He is naturally anxious to know the reason why, and in this way he comes to see imperfections in his methods that he would never otherwise have seen. In a hundred ways valuable information may be obtained. The farmer comes to know about new and valuable grains, and he becomes acquainted with the possibilities of attainment in growing all kinds of produce in his locality. These are away beyond his long cherished conception in regard to these things and he naturally desires to know the methods by which such excellence has been attained. He sees livestock, much better it may be, than he possesses, and he desires to know the measures by which such excellence has been brought about. He finds machinery on exhibition, better than anything in that line that he has used and he becomes acquainted with the source from which he can obtain it. He can get such information with less of distraction than would attend the securing of the same at the large fair, because of the many side attractions at the latter.

"The farmer who becomes a regular exhibitor at a small fair is almost certain to become an exhibitor at a large fair. At the small fair he has received the stimulus to try and distance all his competitors. This leads him to study methods by which highest excellence may be attained. When he succeeds in his effort at the small fair, his ambition leads him to desire to enter a larger field and so he enters the large fair with his product. In this way some farmers who have produced the very finest of products that have been put on exhibition have been educated in the line of such production.

"In no way can support be furnished

so cheaply and so surely for the State Fair as by encouraging the small fair. The man who has attended the small fair for years will not remain content with that alone. He knows that products will come from a wider area to the State Fair and he wants to see them. This leads him to attend, and such attendance becomes, as it were, a habit. He wants to go every year. As previously intimated, the small fair becomes a school to the man who exhibits there. It tends to multiply exhibits greatly, because of the opportunity which it furnishes and this means, in time, a corresponding increase in exhibits and exhibitors for the large fair.

"The small fair then is worthy of every encouragement. State money given to sustain it is given to sustain a good cause. Chambers of Commerce who give moral and material support to such fairs are engaged in a good work and the same is true of local boards of trade. Even merchants, land men, business men of all lines and professional men, are casting bread upon the waters that will come back to them, when in a judicious way they give tangible encouragement to the local fair. In no way can agriculture in a neighborhood be lifted to so high a plane at so little cost as by maintaining a county or even a more local fair in a thriving condition. The Ontario government has fairs in every township and in no place on the continent has agriculture been more perfected than in that province."

CORN VALUABLE ROTATION CROP

Breeding Work of O. A. C. Agronomy Department Shows Results.

Results of the corn breeding work of the agronomy department at the Oregon Agricultural College are beginning to have their effect in practically every region of the state, although the experiments have not as yet been published. Although Oregon is a small grain growing state rather than a corn growing area, because of the cold nights and early fall rains, yet Prof. H. D. Scudder, head of the agronomy department, believes that a great deal may be done for this crop by breeding a hardier, earlier maturing variety.

The corn crop in Oregon undoubtedly will never displace barley as a feed for fattening hogs and other stock, yet it not only has great value for this purpose, especially where it may be pastured off by pigs without harvesting, but is even more valuable as a cultivated crop in rotation. No rotation for the maintenance of soil fertility is complete without a crop which will allow the thorough cultivation of the fields, not only to rid them of weeds which multiply in small grain or hay fields, but also for the excellent effects upon the physical qualities of the soil through thorough and frequent stirring. The corn is also valuable as a manure consumer, taking the place in the rotation in which the barnyard manure may be profitably used.

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25-27-28-29.

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