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-De Mar in Philadelphia Record.



#### News Snapshots Of the Week

Governor William Sulzer of New York failed to appear in person at his impeachment trial at Albany, at which Chief Justice E. M. Cullen of the state court of appeals presided. Following the public funeral of "Big Tim" Sullivan, the New York congressman who was found dead after being missing for ten days, the authorities began investigating his death. Rev. Hans Schmidt, a Catholic priest stationed in New York city, confessed he killed Anna Amuller, the Hudson river murder victim, and dismembered her body. Dr. E. A. Muret, the priest's friend, was arrested on suspicion of being a counterfeiter. Post Wheeler, secretary of the American embassy at Rome, returned to Washington to face charges that he had abused his diplomatic privileges regarding the importation of articles free of duty. Thomas A. Edison, the great inventor, was reported so ill as to be unable to go to his laboratory for the first time in eight years.

#### Fairs "The Timekeepers of Progress," Withycombe

Properly conducted agricultural fairs are highly educational and are, as stated by an eminent American statesman, the timekeepers of progress. Agricultural fairs must not, however, be permitted to degenerate into vaudeville affairs, with innumerable questionable side-shows and their usual accompanying fakirs. Instead they must, for best ultimate results, be kept upon a high social and educational plane; in fact, a properly conducted fair should provide innocent amusement and be a social and intellectual uplift to the community. Fairs should be an annual event to which rural and urban people look forward with pleasant anticipation; a season of renewal of friendship and of family reunions; a season of restfulness after the strenuous labors of gathering the fruits of well-tilled farms; a season when the old and young can meet on common ground in bonds of sympathy and agricultural fellowship; a season full of agricultural inspiration and hope for the future.

It is not enough to simply mutely make the awards, but the whys and wherefores should be given for the placing of the blue, red and white. This will make the interest among exhibitors and spectators keener and give to the fair a greater educational value.

Fairs stimulate interest in better things upon the farms and reveal new avenues for that. Fairs offer the best opportunity for making tangible comparisons between types and breeds of livestock and help one largely to decide wherein his own flocks and herds may be improved. The same opportunity is presented to observe and study the numerous varieties of farm crops and learn perhaps of new varieties which might be introduced to the farm with profit.

Agriculture is progressive; thus new types of farm machines are constantly being evolved for greater efficiency in farm work. Fairs offer the best opportunity for noting the progress in these lines, in fact, they present to the spectator a broad educational field.

Fairs, to command the confidence and respect of farmers, must be backed by strong administration. The directors must be men of character who will have the courage to suppress questionable concessions, regardless of the revenue they may bring. The fair must be kept clean. The amusement features of some fairs are positively a disgrace and an insult to any respectable community. Fortunately these conditions are being eliminated and such fairs are rarely in evidence.

The farmer should endeavor to receive the greatest possible benefit from the local fair. He should not only be an exhibitor himself but should encourage his sons and daughters to participate as exhibitors, and should endeavor to be with them as much as possible during the fair to examine together the various exhibits. In this way the greatest possible good will result from the expen-

diture of funds for this class of agricultural promotion.

The primary function of a fair is education, and if the fair is properly conducted this aim and purpose will be fully fulfilled.

A fair, however, cannot succeed without the support of the people; hence every farmer should endeavor to show his loyalty to his local fair by his presence.—Dr. James Withycombe.

#### The Big Men

The big men dare, and the big do; they dream great dreams, which they make come true. They bridge the rivers and link the plains, and gird the land with their railway trains; they make the desert break forth in bloom, they send the cataract through a flume to turn the wheels of a thousand mills and bring the coin to a nation's tills; the big men work, and the big men plan, and, helping themselves, help their fellow men. And the cheap men yelp at their carriage wheels, as the small dog barks at the big dog's heels. The big men sow while the cheap men sleep, and when they go to their fields to reap, the cheap men cry, "We must have a share of all the grain they harvest there! These men are pirates who sow and reap and plan and build while we are asleep. We'll legislate till they lose their hair! We'll pass new laws that will strip them bare! We'll tax them right and we'll tax them left, till of their plunder they are bereft; we'll show these men that we all despise their courage, their skill, and enterprise!" So the small men yap at the big men's heels; the fake reformers with uplift spiels, the four-eyed dreamers with theories fine, which bring them maybe three cents a line, the tin horn grafters who always yearn to collar the coin they do not earn. And the big men sigh as they go on their way; they'll balk at the whole blamed thing some day!—Walt Mason.

#### What's in the Paper?

The paper tells of wedding bells and bridal wreaths and damsels blushing; of men who waste their lives in haste, upon their foolish errands rushing; of politics and ringsters' tricks, of Windy Jims with schemes unending; of griefs and cares and sighs and prayers, and mothers o'er sick children bending. The paper tells of prison cells where human junk is safely herded; of church and pew, where I and you hear helpful sermons, aptly worded; describes the den where broken men have heard the doors of hope shut, clanging; describes the hall, where on the wall, a hundred prints are hanging. The paper speaks of ugly leaks discovered in the nations coffers; of noble schemes and rosy dreams, and of the sneers of ribald scoffers; of queens and kings, of all the earth, in prose or verses; of pain, relief, of joy or grief, and farewell tours in sable hearse. We read it all—the stories tall of native stunt and foreign caper—with brooding eye, we fiercely cry: "Great Scott! There's nothing in the paper."—By Walt Mason in the Daily Abstract.

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