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BENTON'S SCHOOL FAIR

Many Amusements But the Children's Work Was the Greatest Attraction

Corvallis, Or., Aug. 30.—The first day of the county school fair was what is called a great success. The day was perfect, and the attendance was large. The arrangements to entertain the crowd were excellent. There was a balloon ascension with a terrifying parachute jump. There were snake eaters and fakirs galore, but best of all was the actual exhibit of products of the soil and of the handwork of the children of the public schools of Benton county. In all 500 children actually exhibited, \$1100 in prizes were distributed, nearly 6000 square feet of floor space was filled with the public school exhibits of the county. Organs, book cases, phonographs and libraries were presented to the schools, the gifts of Corvallis business men. Benton county has got a great big advertisement as one of the finest producing counties in the state, and a knockout blow has been delivered to theories of race suicide.

The Speakers' Platform.

Flanked by a rearguard of Spanish war veterans, the large platform at the west entrance to the court house was a blaze of colors—bunting, flags and an awning of canvas to keep off the sun. At 2 p. m. the half-mile long procession of school children, in which at least 1200 participated, had filed past and assembled on the court house grounds. There must have been 3000 people on the grounds when Judge McFadden called to order.

The Procession.

The children from the district schools of the county, headed by the Philomath school, led the procession through the streets. The Corvallis schools and those nearby closed the marching columns. The principals led each group of children, and the women teachers walked alongside. All waved flags, wore white dresses, pretty hats and fluttering ribbons. "Ain't they cute," "Did ou ever," were the most frequent exclamations of the crowds.

The Speechmaking

Dr. Withycombe presided. Thursday. He revived in a happy manner the great significance of the school fair to industrial development. The first round of applause came—a hearty one—in response to his eulogy of the one man to whom this great fair and this whole demonstration was due, County Superintendent George W. Denman. He then introduced Prof. L. R. Alderman, who conducted the first school in Yamhill county.

The sight of the marching column of school children going by was a very inspiring sight. They represented the home and the school, the work of careful, conscientious teachers and faithful, devoted fathers and mothers, the mothers the greatest teachers of all. The school fair is a growing idea. It was highly commended by all the speakers. The exhibit spoke for itself. Pride beaming on all faces showed that the people of Benton county spoke their unanimous approval.

One of the speakers made a happy hit (Prof. Alderman) by referring in a jocular manner to "these distinguished gentlemen who are now sitting on this platform facing the county jail."

Governor Chamberlain spoke next and said, while his public life seemed to bring him nearer and nearer to a jail, he did not mind so

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long as he did not have to speak from the inside of one.

Governor Pleased the Crowd.

In his reference to the public schools the governor won lots of applause for insisting that they be not employed entirely to fit boys and the girls for the so-called higher education, but more for practical affairs of life, such as agriculture, horticulture, domestic science, etc. If more boys learned grafting trees, there would be less grafting of fees. If more girls learned to cook there would be fewer divorce suits filed.

Senator Fulton Introduced.

The senior United States senator, who was to make the principal speech Friday, was jumped up without notice, and made a short humorous address. He expressed surprise at the exhibits, was amazed at what the children had been able to accomplish. A year ago he had attended a similar fair at McMinnville. A monument would some day be erected to the memory of the man who originated holding of their agricultural school fairs. He agreed with other speakers that the public schools ought to impress more and more the dignity and honor of labor. The agricultural college was doing the greatest work of any educational institute in the state.

Rev. Bell closed with an eloquent eulogy of the children and the flag and the country. He closed by saying: "While you're here holler for the old flag, and take chances on the future."

Some Things Exhibited.

Penmanship and sweet peas, cucumbers and cauliflower, corn and cabbage, beets and rutabaga, butter and bread, jams and jellies, musk melons, watermelons and sunflowers, nasturtiums, asters and dahlias, needlework, mangel wurzel and turnips, peaches grown by peaches, carrots and canary seed, ground cherries and gooseberries, popcorn and peanuts.

Effect of the School Fairs.

The county superintendents who have been holding school fairs have struck a popular chord. County Superintendent Starr, of Polk county, has been made secretary of the Board of Normal School Regents, County Superintendent Alderman has been made superintendent of the

Eugene city schools and County Superintendent Denman came in for high praises. He has a large county institute at work at present at the State Agricultural College, and a special course is given at a summer school of agriculture at the same time. The effect of stacking up a large court house full of farm and garden products, fruits, vegetables, grain and grasses, and culinary and needlework productions made by children, will all tend to direct education into the channels of doing things—of production, of applied industry. And industry and production connected with education become creative pleasures instead of hard toil and drudgery without the illumination and joy of intellectual pleasure and advancement.

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